

clayton high school the globe

November 20, 2007

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1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton MO 63105

[snapshots]

Holiday toy drive

CHS is competing with Ladue to donate the most toys to the Echo Children's Home and needy families around St. Louis. The Laurence Maroney 39 Foundation will award the winning school \$1000. Bring new, packaged toys worth a minimum of \$10 to the drop-off points around school. The drive will end Dec. 10. See Mr. Hamylak for more information.

Shaw Park Ice Rink

After being closed for the 2006-2007 season, the Shaw Park Ice Rink will be open from Nov. 23 through Feb. 25.

Journalism awards

In the on-site writing contests at the JEA/NSPA Fall High School Journalism Convention, Kelly Moffitt and Nava Kantor won Superior awards for their work in the commentary and news writing categories, respectively. Carol Iskiwitch was awarded an Honorable Mention in feature writing.

Don't forget the next late-start day!

Students will begin class at 9:20 on Dec. 5.

Center of Clayton

The Center will periodically be closed to students after school to make room for winter sports practices.

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James' teaching formula proves worthy

[Nava Kantor]
Co-Editor in Chief

He's been teaching math at CHS for 10 years. He's the current chair of the mathematics department and a sponsor of the math club. He co-developed the curriculum for Informal Algebra, and teaches math in the Learning Center and Advanced Placement Calculus BC as well.

He's a past president of the Mathematics Educators of Greater St. Louis and has been named their Teacher of the Year.

And now, Curtis James is the proud and surprised winner of the 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

"I was in shock when they called my name," James said. "I wasn't expecting anything. We have so many other great teachers here."

At an all-school assembly Nov. 1, James received the award from Richard Sandler, the executive vice president of the foundation. Nearly everyone in the school was clueless as to the true purpose of the gathering, including James himself.

"I thought it was a celebration of our years and years of good state test scores," James said. "I was totally fooled. When the speaker said he was from the Milken Foundation, I realized this wasn't about test scores at all, that someone was getting a really nice award. I have a friend who won it a few years ago."

The Milken Family Foundation

awarded James with an unrestricted check for \$25,000, to be presented at the Milken National Education Conference in Los Angeles in the spring. James is one of only two Missouri winners for 2007.

Winners are selected by independent blue-ribbon committees appointed by each state's Department of Education. According to the foundation's website, criteria for the selection of the winners include proven, exceptional educational talent; substantial educational accomplishments outside the classroom; strong potential for professional and policy leadership; and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates students, colleagues and the community.

"Curtis is an exceptional teacher in the classroom, reaching kids at all different levels of math," Principal Louise Losos said. "He is also involved at both the local and state level on curricular issues. He's a superb department chair."

Among those present at the ceremony were Kent King, the Missouri Commissioner of Education, and Matt Blunt, the governor of Missouri.

[Louise Losos]
CHS Principal

"Having made a commitment to public education, the governor wanted to be involved in something that was as exciting as this award," Losos said.

Another special guest at the ceremony was James' wife.

"Mrs. [Stacy] Felps called my wife and got her to come," James said. "They snuck her off to the side

Mr. James exemplifies the excellence in teaching that occurs throughout our building.



Blair Klostermeier

Math teacher Curtis James smiles in shock as he is awarded the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. The award was presented to Mr. James in an all-school assembly. State officials such as Missouri Governor Matt Blunt attended the ceremony.

so I wouldn't see and didn't tell her what was going on. My wife was in tears when I got the award."

James' six-year-old twins were also proud.

"Spencer said to me, 'Wouldn't it be great if I could grow up to be a teacher and get that award some day?'" James said. "That made me very proud. Ian wanted to know if I had won enough money to buy him a Transformers toy."

James has big plans for the money not being spent in the Toys-R-Us catalog.

"A good portion of the money is going to my kids' college funds, and we might go to Disney World,"

James said. "I'll also donate some of it, probably to college scholarship funds."

Winning the award has reinvigorated James.

"November's always kind of a lull in the school year for students and teachers, but I do have a little more energy from winning," said James. "I'm smiling a lot more, lets put it that way."

Losos is proud that a CHS teacher won the prestigious award.

"It validates what we're doing in the classroom," Losos said. "Mr. James exemplifies the excellence in teaching that occurs throughout the building. With our math de-

partment being often under scrutiny, it's nice for it to be honored in this way. It was wonderful, even peripherally, to be involved in an assembly of that magnitude and for that purpose."

James is grateful to his colleagues and the entire CHS community.

"I think coming to Clayton is probably what made me the teacher I am today," James said. "This community is very supportive of teacher growth and professional involvement, and the students are fantastic and make it fun to come to work. Thanks to everyone for helping me get this far." ☺

Senior elected DECA district vice president

[Aaron Praiss]
Editor

This year in DECA, one student has truly earned his way to a respectful level. Senior Vikram Chakravarthy, now District Vice President for the state of Missouri, has put in countless hours of effort towards his achievements.

"DECA really gives students first hand experience with business management," Chakravarthy said. "DECA involves a lot of marketing management and entrepreneurship experience, while providing students with the knowledge for a business career."

This is Chakravarthy's third year as an active member of DECA.

"I was a sophomore when I first became involved in DECA," Chakravarthy said. "I was taking the marketing class, and my teacher recommended that I go ahead and compete. That was when I first found out how much fun DECA could be."

DECA sponsors and plans many CHS activities. Most well-known, is the DECA Powder Puff Football games.

Along with organizing many CHS activities, DECA members also compete.

"In the past years I have competed at the state and international levels," Chakravarthy said. "There are two categories to compete in: individual events or projects. The individual events include a 100-question multiple-choice exam and then two role-plays. A role play consists of spontaneously talking yourself out of a situation. I remained involved in DECA because of the friendships and opportunities I found at those competitions."

On top of all of activities and competitions, Chakravarthy decided to run for a state officer position.

"This summer I began work on my state campaign," Chakravarthy said. "I raised about \$1,500. Then, in late October, I went to the Lake of the Ozarks, where the elections took place. On top of a test and other examinations, I had to give a speech in front of about 800



Courtesy of Marci Boland

After competing at state and international levels, Vikram Chakravarthy earned the seat of DECA district vice president. He plans to encourage DECA involvement.

people. I received second place, for the position of Vice President."

Though Chakravarthy did not get elected as vice president for the state of Missouri, he still earned the seat district vice president. This district includes Clayton, Ladue, University City, Sullivan, Pacific, and the four Parkway high schools.

"As district vice president, I am also a member of the State Action Team," Chakravarthy said. "The State Action Team consists of the four executive officers and the 12 district vice presidents."

Now, with a major responsibility, Chakravarthy has begun work on promoting DECA in his District.

"As district vice president, I am responsible for promoting DECA throughout the district," Chakravarthy said. "I am trying to get more students involved, since our district in Missouri has many bright students. So many students from CHS, the Parkway schools, and more would do very well in DECA. I am trying to make involvement fun and easy for everyone."

With the election day over, Chakravarthy has set his mind for the future, even beginning a promotional video to promote DECA to many students. ☺

Halloween dance cancelled, future events imperiled

[Ken Zheng]
Staff Reporter

Imagine dressing up and going with your friends to a dance. Maybe you can get that kiss from the boy you like or finally get the girl you have a crush on to admit she likes you. All of this could happen in one night, a night without alcohol.

For CHS students, one of those nights didn't happen this year.

The 2007 Halloween dance was originally scheduled for Oct. 18 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the commons.

Many schools only have three dances per year: homecoming, a winter dance and prom, but CHS chooses to have five, with the addition of the Halloween dance and last year's St. Patrick's Day dance.

Since Principal Louise Losos arrived, CHS has held a total 11 dances. There have been a total of 20 student suspensions.

"Previously, in my 14 years in education at two other high schools," Losos said, "all the dances combined might have added up to five suspensions. In Mr. Gutchewsky's six years at CHS, there have been a total of roughly 50 suspensions. I don't believe that our students drink more than they do at other high schools, they are teenagers. I do believe that at our dances the drinking is more prior to the dance rather than after, which I think is more traditional."

The small dances like Hallow-

een and the March dance, which has been renamed, are Clayton-only dances. C-Club and CHS club sponsor homecoming and Peppers, while the junior class sponsors Prom.

The Halloween and March dances tend to be less formal and are sponsored by StuGo.

On Oct. 16 StuGo officers Abbie Minton, Laura Bliss, Kate Wheelock, and Laura Shoemaker had a pre-meeting to prepare for the Wednesday night StuGo meeting.

"We were informed that we had sold only about 45 tickets," StuGo President Abbie Minton said. "Twenty of those tickets were for StuGo members who were all required to go to the dance. The other officers and I and Mr. Hamylak and Mr. Kleinberg decided it was not worth StuGo's effort and a big cut of our budget to put on a dance for 40 people. We usually sell around 500-600 tickets. In order to cover all expenses, we have to sell 160 tickets just to break even."

Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak said tickets have always been sold the same way, Monday through Thursday during the week of the dance.

"After polling students, StuGo assumed that there would not be enough ticket sales to make a dance financially worthwhile, nor much fun for students that would have come," Hamylak said.

Halloween, 19

Abstinence only education loses support

Students and teachers question the effectiveness of abstinence only education

[Ugochi Onyema]
Editor

High school students are forced to balance their social lives with their academic lives. But what happens when the two worlds conjoin into one?

The state of New York recently eliminated the possibility of this situation occurring in their schools by rejecting \$3.5 million of federal funding for abstinence-only sex education. New York is the eleventh state to reject the funding from the program, funding that the state has been receiving since 1998, under the Clinton administration.

The abstinence-only sex education funding, otherwise known as Title V funding, distributes government dollars by assigning more money to states with more lower-income students, which is why New York was the second most endowed state, following Texas.

President George Bush requested \$191 million for Title V funding for the 2008 fiscal year for the national program, which, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, is an increase of \$28 million from last year's national funding.

However, there are certain conditions for states to receive the funds. States must agree to prohibit teachers from discussing contraception and requiring them to tell students that sex within marriage is the only acceptable way to have sexual relationships.

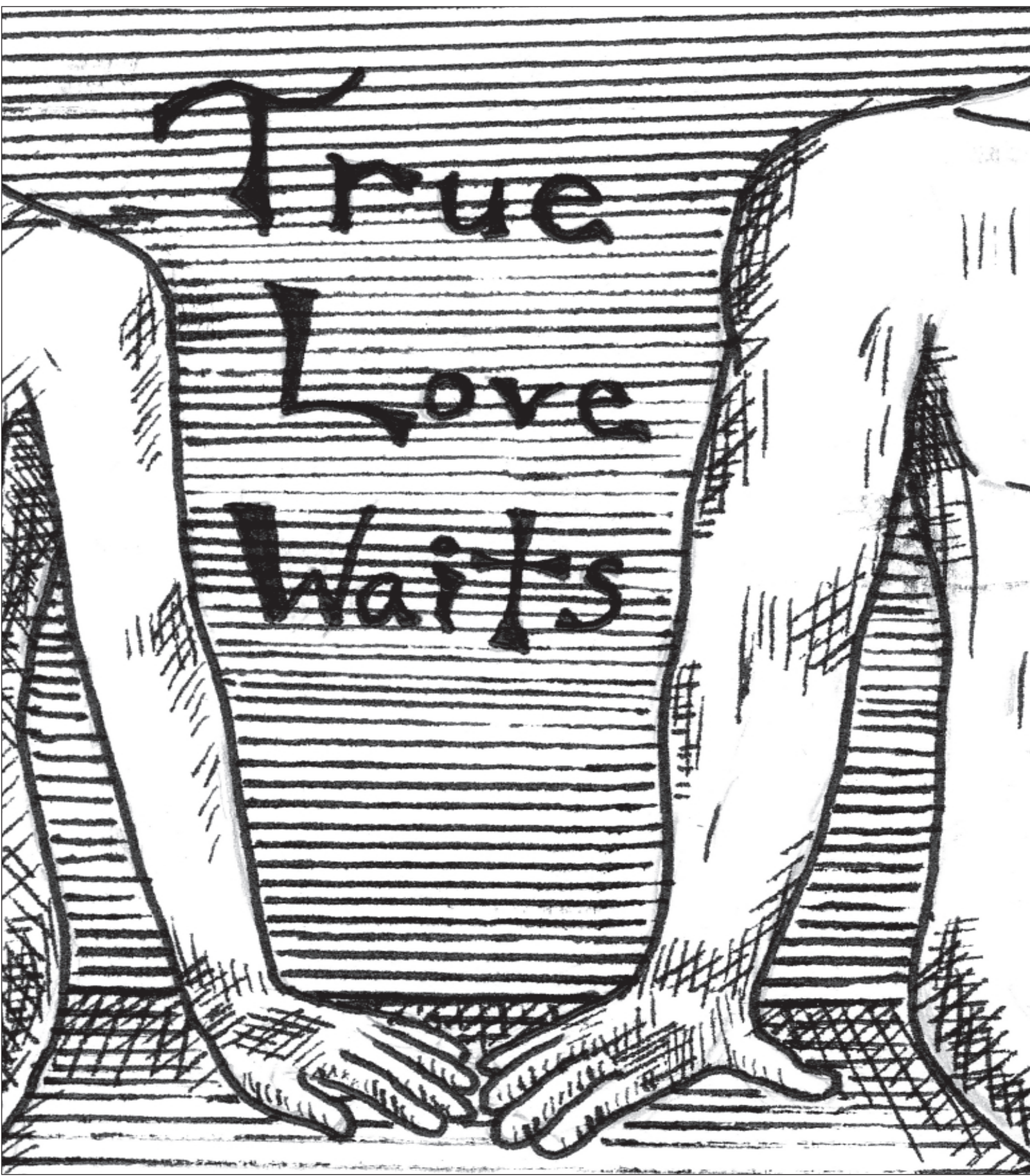
According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, 57 percent of the abstinence-only curricula in New York schools in 2005 were biased, compared to the 28 percent of the acceptable comprehensive curricula in the state. Approximately 53 percent of the over \$10 million endowed to the state in fiscal year 2006, were used by religious organizations without adequate monitoring.

A study conducted by the United States Congress this year reported that abstinence-only education had no effect on the number of reported pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases or births.

In addition, the survey revealed that abstinence-only education did not affect the age at which teens begin engaging in sexual activity.

In 2005, the NYCLU published a report that reported the inaccuracies of four curriculum programs frequently used in New York: Sex Respect, WAIT Training, Choosing the Best, and Project Reality. All four of these programs exaggerated the repercussions of embarking on a sexual relationship during the teenage years. According to the NYCLU,

The Project Reality program includes a guide for parents and teachers that instruct them to tell students that premarital sex results in several problems, including loss of reputation, loss of self-esteem, guilt, melancholy, aggression toward women, poverty and sexually transmitted diseases, such as Chlamydia and herpes.



Keri Blumer

mydia and herpes.

However, some associations agree with the implementation of abstinence-only education, and The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, is one of them. According to the Heritage Foundation, more than 90 percent of American parents want teenagers to be instructed to abstain from having sex until the completion of their high school careers.

The Heritage Foundation reported that over 90 percent of teens agreed that abstinence should be taught in school. The contrary reports of the NYCLU and The Heritage Foundation, as well as other organizations, has led to controversy surrounding the entire issue of

abstinence-only sex education versus comprehensive sex education.

Clayton High School has evaded this controversial situation by not incorporating a sex education curriculum solely based on abstinence, a fact that offers Health teacher Doris Smith relief.

"If abstinence-only education was incorporated into the curriculum, I would actively work against it, because I think that we have a greater impact on kids when we treat them as rationally thinking young adults," Smith said.

Smith, who is a proponent of abstinence, but is against abstinence-only education, stated that she believes that the community trusts the health department to teach in good

taste, but to have more comprehensive and accurate education.

"There hasn't been a time at CHS when abstinence-only education was taught," Smith said. "I've been doing this since 1980, and the parents and the community in Clayton have been very supportive of abstinence-promoted education. We work with students and promote that abstinence is the best choice for teens and young adults, but that there are other options. I think that it's the same thing as the just say no to drugs program. There are so many reasons why a student might or might not choose to have sex, so abstinence only education really doesn't help. But helping people talk through it can help."

Junior Becky Poplawski also believes that abstinence-only education does not benefit the students, and agrees with Smith's comparison of sex to drug use.

"If abstinence-only education was instated at CHS, it would be a step back from where we are now, because in teaching us about other contraceptives, they are at least teaching us to have safe sex, but with abstinence-only education, they aren't teaching us anything at all," Poplawski said. "With the majority of students, it's not very effective, and it's not effective because there is no way to keep students from having sex, because students signed contracts with D.A.R.E. pledging to not do drugs or drink

alcohol, but they do it anyway."

Dr. Joseph Shumway, an obstetrician of gynecologist who treats many patients in Clayton, thinks that the best way to protect teens is to make sure that they are well informed.

"Sexual activity is a risky proposition, and they are about to engage in risky behaviors, so when they decide to do so, I tell them that they need to engage in safe sex practices," Shumway said. "Abstinence-only education is ineffective, and there are a lot of studies that prove that. It is not a good global strategy to protect teens and it is naive to teach only abstinence in schools because teens are going to engage in those behaviors anyway, and if they are ill-taught, they will be unprepared for when they do become active."

Shumway also believes that although abstinence-only education is generally ineffective, it can be successful with a small percentage of the population.

"Abstinence-only education is effective for a small group of people," Shumway said. "That small section of the population has succeeded in teaching abstinence because the message is reinforced at home."

Smith believes that abstinence-only education is not only ineffective, but also results in counteractive effects.

"It does delay them [students] becoming sexually active for five to six months, but then once they do start, students become more involved in riskier behaviors," Smith said. Junior Abby Williams has a slightly opposing viewpoint than Poplawski and Smith.

"Well, I think that it's an obvious fact that abstinence is the only method of contraception that's 100 percent effective, so I don't understand why someone would need to take an entire class on it," Williams said. "I personally agree with abstinence morally, but I do think that people should be educated with other methods."

Williams also said that although it is helpful to learn about various methods of contraception, it is not necessary.

"It's kind of hard to say, because I don't think that people in high school should need to know how to use contraceptives, and it seems like when the school teaches us about those kinds of things, they condoning that behavior, so in that way, I disagree with the sex education at CHS," Williams said. "I wouldn't have any objections to the incorporation of abstinence-only education, because of my moral stance, but I don't think that many students would have objections to that kind of change."

Poplawski has a clear opinion concerning the lack of information of other methods of contraceptives in abstinence-only education.

"If the school teaches just abstinence-only education, then they're not teaching other methods, and that's not good for students," Poplawski said. ☺

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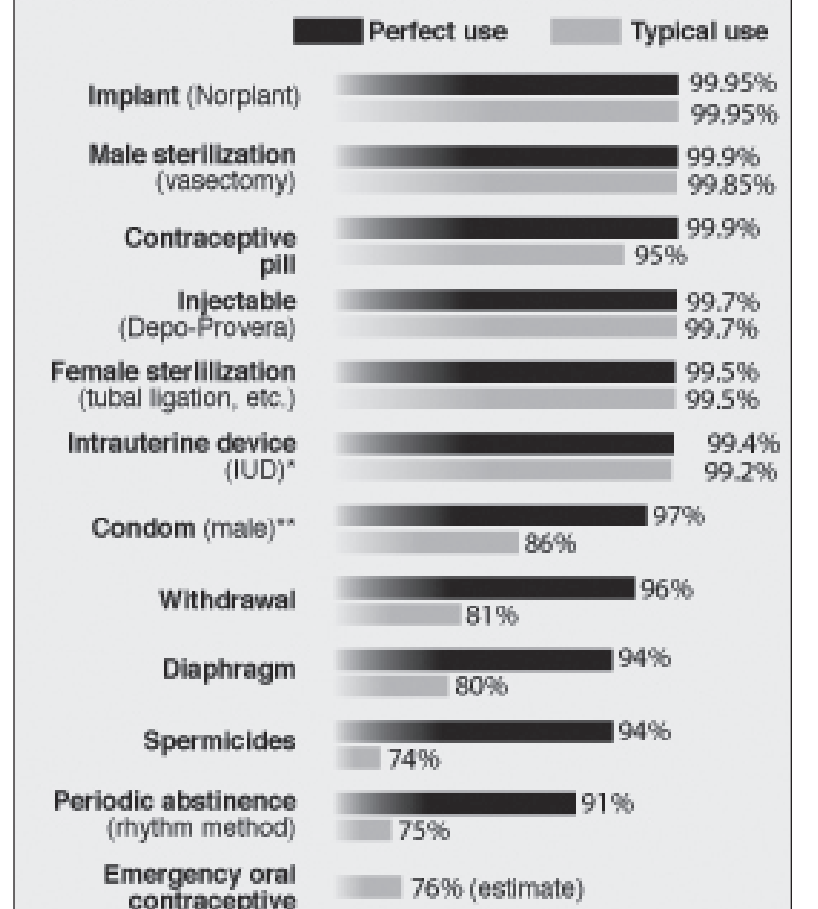
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Obama rallies support in St. Louis

[Katharine Weiss]
Senior Managing Editor

Watching Barack Obama talk about his future in the White House was like watching an 18-year-old kid talk about entering into the "real world." Obama's passion and idealism captured each one of his supporters as they stood in the biting cold, outside of Union Station on Oct. 26.

This rally marked Obama's first outdoor event in St. Louis. The evening started with an endorsement from Congressmen Russ Carnahan and Lacy Clay for Obama's candidacy.

Finally after over an hour and a half of waiting in the wet cold, Obama stepped onto the stage unleashing an outburst of cheers and enthusiasm from the audience.

Besides being black, Hawaiian and young, Obama pointed out yet another difference between himself and his competitors, calling himself more than just a "hope peddler."

"We don't need someone who can play the game well," Obama said. "But someone who can put an end to the game."

While some of his critics may call Obama's take on politics naïve, his supporters were right

there with him, holding up signs that read "Change we can believe in" and "Got hope?"

Other than bringing hope back to the White House, Obama also pledged to bring back impatience and anger. Obama spoke of the corruption that had become too much a part of this administration, saying that "The American Dream is slipping away from too many people."

Obama expressed his anger over the Iraq War, the state of health care, and the "No Child Left Behind Act" as well as his goals to deal with issues of HIV and AIDS, ending the genocide in Darfur and restoring habeas corpus.

"People are sickened by the sight of our fellow citizens standing on rooftops after a storm, because of an administration so indifferent or so incompetent," Obama said.

Obama subtly made references to his rival, Hillary Clinton.

"Some of my competitors say elect me because I know how

to play the game in Washington better."

Obama made no promises that he would be a perfect president.

"I will not be a perfect president," Obama said. "But I will always tell you what I think and where I stand. I will listen to you even when we disagree. I will open back up government doors so you can be a part of it."

Obama also spoke of the importance of getting the nation back involved in politics. "Change happens because all of

you decide that change happens," Obama said. "You don't want to be just against something, but for something. We as Americans can still work together. We can rally around a common purpose and destiny."

Finally after just over an hour talking, Obama wrapped up his

We don't need someone who can play the game well. But someone who can put an end to the game.

[Barack Obama]
Presidential Candidate

speech with a story from his campaign trail. Obama told of how he made a promise to visit Greenwood South Carolina to meet voters. Expecting to find a fairly large group, Obama was shocked to find that fewer than a dozen unenthusiastic locals had shown up.

"I am running for President," Obama said. "I thought I was a pretty big deal."

At the end of the story, Obama told of how he had been inspired by a local who had used the chant "fired up" and "ready to go" to get the audience motivated and encouraged.

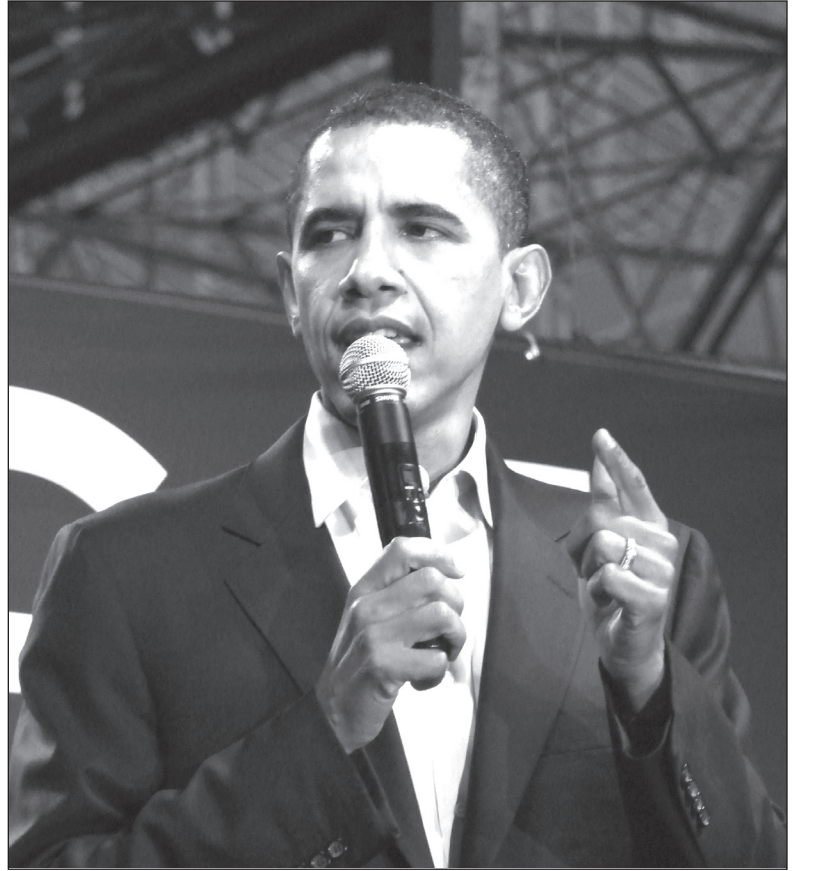
Obama ended his speech by commenting on his experience.

"One voice could change that room, and if one voice can change a room then one voice can change a city, and if one voice can change a city then it can change a state, and if one voice can change the state, then it can change a nation, and if one voice can change the nation, then it can change the world. Your voice can change the world. Let's go change the world."

He then yelled out into the crowd "Fired up?"

"Fired Up!" the crowd hollered back.

"Ready to go?"
"Ready to go!"



Presidential candidate Barack Obama spoke at Union Station on Oct. 26. He focused on health care, the War in Iraq and education.

Meet the Candidate: Barack Obama

- Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 4th, 1961
- He earned a law degree from Harvard in 1991
- He is the author of two bestselling books, "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope"
- He lived for most of his childhood in Hawaii and spent four years in the Indonesian capital city of Jakarta

Students in Korea focus on entry into special high schools

[Jiyoun Kahng]
Staff Reporter

By November, ninth grade students in Korea have already made one of the biggest decisions in their lives. In South Korea, the majority of the ninth graders have just received results from the special high schools where they have applied. In Korean middle schools, ninth grade is the final year of the course, which

special high school they are applying to. Upon meeting this initial condition, candidates are then required to have an interview and are assessed according to their personality, the level of their cooperative skills and their ability to adjust to new ideas and a new environment.

These factors make it very competitive and difficult for the students to get into special high schools, and it is every student and

parent's dream to be accepted at one of the best high schools in the nation. Ninth grade student Byungmok Kim has currently been accepted by the Chungbuk state science high school. "Most of my friends, who were planning on going to special high schools started preparing when they were only in fourth grade," Kim said. "I too, studied very hard not only to receive straight A's in all of my classes, but to go beyond the school education level. Like many other students, I went to special high school preparation cram schools after school to study math and English in-depth until at least 10 p.m. every day."

Na-young Lim is a tenth grade student who was accepted by the Seoul foreign language high school in the year of 2006. "Of course, once you get into high school it is even more stressful and difficult to compete with the smartest and most hardworking kids, but because everyone in the school studies so hard and is ea-

ger to learn, the great educational environment really motivates me to work harder," Lim said. "I also think that going to a special high school would totally affect your life because not only it is way more academically focused, there are way more options and excellent opportunities for individuals to prepare for their possible future, like going to one of the best universities in the world."

Hansue Park is now a senior in Pusan foreign language high school in Korea.

"A lot of the students in foreign language high schools or other independent private high schools that require students to speak fluent English have numbers of students successfully enroll in ivy league universities in America, achieving perfect scores in the SAT," Park said. "We dream big, and many graduate students' goal is to go out into the world as leaders who have Korea in their hearts and the world in their minds."

Depending on what kind of special high school one attends, one's choices of career vary.

The biggest differences from the regular high schools are that the special high schools require a test and high standards to enroll, and that in the science high schools and foreign language high schools, they focus more on a certain subject. Many of the foreign language high schools actually perform classes in English or a different second language.

The rest of the 95 percent of ninth grade students go to regular high schools or vocational high schools, without having to take a test. The students in regular high schools are still eligible of going to good colleges or universities, depending on their efforts and achievements made throughout the high school course.

Many graduate students' goal is to go into the world as leaders with Korea in their hearts and the world in their minds.

[Hansue Park]
Senior at a Korean special high school

Unlike the school system in America, high schools in Korea are divided into different academic levels, majors and purposes. Vocational high schools, regular high schools and special high schools are the three main branches of high schools that are classified by the academic levels and abilities of the students. Each student must choose a high school that best fits his or her abilities and interests. Vocational high schools are generally for the lowest achieving students, regular high schools for the average students, and the special high schools for the most gifted and talented students with great academic abilities.

Therefore, special high schools attract the top Korean middle school students from around the country. Special high schools are also divided into science high schools that select and develop students of great talents in science and mathematics, foreign language high schools that mainly focus on foreign languages and independent private high schools that only accept the top ranked students in the nation with gifted abilities.

"Not only do the special high schools accept students who are committed to both academic and personal growth, they search for students with a natural concern for others," principal of Korean Minjok Leadership Academy Don-Hee Yi said.

There are only 55 special high schools in Korea, and only five percent of all ninth grade students in the entire nation enroll in special high schools each year.

Ninth grade student Hye-Jin Yi applied to foreign language high school.

"I had to send applications with my school report card from eighth grade to first semester of ninth grade with the teacher's recommendations," Yi said. "Then I had to take an English test on listening, writing and speaking and an intelligence test that had bunch of hard logical and mathematical problem-solving questions."

Initially, those students seeking to qualify as eligible candidates of special high schools are required to rank at least in the top 10 percent nationwide depending on which



Korean students study in special high schools that attract the top five percent of students in Korea. There are 55 special high schools in Korea that focus on either the sciences or foreign languages.

*** Competition between Clayton & Ladue High Schools ***

The school that collects the most toys will be awarded \$1,000 from the Laurence Maroney 39 Foundation.

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- @ Clayton High School
- Class of 2011 - Learning Center (Mr. Jeremy Rasch)
- Class of 2010 - World Languages Office (Mr. Steve Meier)
- Class of 2009 - Math Office (Mr. Kurt Kleinberg)
- Class of 2008 - Science Office (Mr. Doug Verby)
- General donations - Student Activities Office (Mr. Eric Hamylak)

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IRAQ WAR

Teachers and students share their opinions and suggestions on the controversial war on terror.

[Hyrum Shumway]
Senior Managing Editor

The question of Iraq seems to be the defining political issue presently. A recent Washington Post-ABC poll found the war in Iraq to be the most prominent issue among voters, with 35 percent of American adults saying it is the single most important issue in their choice for president, nearly three times the next big issue, health care. Multiple opinions have been voiced from political leaders and just as many views are represented at CHS.

"I think that going into Iraq was justified," science teacher Brad Krone said. "Saddam was clearly a threat to his neighbors, was a friend of terrorists, and defied UN guidelines over and over again. He was obviously guilty of multiple crimes against humanity and clearly needed to be removed from power. I have no problem with America doing that."

Some believe that even though help was needed in Iraq that it was not America's war.

"I think fundamentally why we went in was that there were some people who thought we should bring democracy and bring down corrupt dictatorships," senior Nick Clemens said. "I disagree that it was our job to do this, and if it was

then, we should have fully committed instead of speaking about the supposed weapons of mass destruction."

Others assert that America's involvement was fundamentally wrong from the onset and that the war was based on dishonesty from the White House.

"Deception has fully characterized U.S. participation in this war," Learning Center history teacher Janet Curry said. "The U.S. included false linkages between Iraq and 9-11, to disguise the U.S.'s oil control motivation in order to win congressional and popular support for the war. There was also false recruitment promises of funding for college and job training. In addition, their is questionable treatment of veterans' emotional and physical needs at their return, and the number of Iraqi civilian and military deaths to date. The international community is paying attention to every part of this."

Others believe that the country was stuck into a bad situation and that there was no perfect answer.

"Perhaps Saddam did have weapons of mass destruction, perhaps he didn't. He certainly could have," Krone said. "Maybe the intelligence was faulty. However, I don't think that Bush lied to the country. I think Bush was in a Catch-22 in 2003. If he chose not to remove

Saddam from power, people would have screamed at him for not acting on intelligence. On the other hand he decided to act and now we are in an ugly war, which is criticized. When any President makes a controversial decision, his critics will question the motive."

In March of 2003, 83 percent of Americans said they were confident about the campaign. Now 61 percent of Americans say the war was not worthwhile. The numbers suggest that a shift in public opinion has occurred.

"I was for going into Iraq because the war protected national security," junior Ryan Walden said. "I believe we have accomplished what we have set out to accomplish and it is time to leave. The point of the Iraq war was to destabilize Saddam's regime and we should have left and let another ruler take charge. I think that the cost of the Iraq war is not worth it because we have placed new goals, and now the purpose of the war is to accomplish superfluous goals that we didn't have in the beginning."

Whether or not the war was right or wrong, it has definitely impacted the international image of the United States.

"At the beginning of the war there were countries that believed we were doing the right thing and there were also many people within the United States who believed we were doing the right thing," English teacher Jennifer Sellenriek said. "Now, however, it looks like America can't admit that it has made a mistake."

Many were especially upset about the war because the United States went in without U.N. approval.

"When we don't comply with international law, when we don't take care to build political consensus, when we act unilaterally, we downgrade our credibility," Curry said. "There were already international processes dealing with the question of Iraq's nuclear capabilities, i.e. the U.N. inspectors. It might not have been go-

ing as quickly as Bush might have wanted, but that is part of the work of complying with international law. The United Nations has to draw commitment from its member states."

On the other hand at the time the danger was viewed as imminent, and many felt that going in without approval was necessary to protect security interests.

"I think that the U.N. was mistaken and to this point still is," Walden said. "I think it was OK to go in. The U.N. is a beneficial organization for all involved. When the U.N. stops being smart about its decisions, this is when nations can go against it."

Four and a half years later the conditions in Iraq are far from ideal. "I think that the current state that Iraq is worse than when Saddam was in power," senior Alex Phillips said. "When Saddam was in power, there was a decent state of living while now I believe it is worse for the majority. At least there was order when Saddam was in power."

Criticism of the war might be downplayed because citizens feel they are disgracing the military.

"I feel a lot of people hesitate to criticize the war now because people feel like they are criticizing the soldiers," Sellenriek said. "I have a brother-in-law who has been deployed twice during the war. It makes it hard to talk about Iraq because we know he is fighting there. We don't want to offend anyone who is fighting there by stating that we shouldn't be there."

Some students feel that the war is distanced from them so it is easier to ignore.

"I don't have to worry about going to war so I am not out there protesting because it is not my life," Phillips said. "Vietnam was a draft so there was a huge anti-war culture. Just because we have a volunteer army doesn't mean the people volunteered to go and get screwed in Iraq."

Drafts definitely raise awareness as it brings the war home.

"I think any time people start talking about a draft, people become interested in the war," Sellenriek said. "It would be very hard to ignore the way as a high school student if a draft was enacted. It is very easy to look the other way during a war right now because we have an all volunteer army, but we forget that many soldiers are 18-year-old kids who might not feel they have another option."

However, some students feel that the best ways to help in Iraq is to literally help in Iraq and go fight. Senior Erik Jones plans to join the ROTC next year and feels that the army is not his only option at all.

"Honestly I don't agree with the war in Iraq," Jones said. "I think the occupying and exiting strategy are completely inappropriate for what we need. Whether you agree with



Army Specialist Brandon Deaton, who lost part of his leg in Iraq, stands with his division in a welcome-home ceremony at Fort Drum, NY.



American soldiers train for Iraq at Fort Hood, Texas by practicing clearing a trench.

Working mother pays for her copyright violation

[Katharine Weiss]
Senior Managing Editor

Ninety-nine cents for a music download is probably looking like a pretty good deal to Jammie Thomas right about now. On October 4 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Davis ordered Thomas to pay a total of \$222,000 for illegally downloading and sharing 1700 songs. After four hours of deliberation and two days of testimony, Thomas was found guilty of sharing 24 music files, which consisted of downloads including Aerosmith and Greenday. Thomas was forced to pay \$9,250 for each song she illegally downloaded.

Thomas claims that she was wrongfully accused and that her IP address was stolen and misused by someone else on the file-sharing program Kazaa. Thomas was offered an out of court settlement of \$5,000 but chose to take her case to court because she "did not want to be bullied by the Recording Industry Association of America."

Virgin Records America, et al v. Jammie Thomas is the first since 2003 of over 20,000 file sharing law suits that the RIAA has filed that has not been dismissed or settled. Two days after the verdict came in, a "Free Jamie Campaign" was started to help Thomas pay for her fines. On Oct. 7 Thomas created a video on youtube.com soliciting users for money.

But what makes this case so different from the thousands of other music downloading cases?

Media Mark Partridge says that what makes this case unusual is it is the first music downloading case brought by the RIAA against an individual to be



Jammie Thomas was found guilty of copyright infringement and will pay a \$222,000 fine.

"The Jury found that Ms. Thomas had acted improperly and that she was obligated to pay damages," Partridge said. "The jury could have awarded up to \$150,000 per work in damages, but instead awarded about \$9000 for each of the 24 works involved."

But has this ground-breaking case changed the mindset of music downloader's? In a recent poll of 40 CHS students, 85% said they download music illegally, some as many as 200 songs.

But CHS students should beware that they are not exempt from being targeted by the RIAA for music downloading.

"Anyone who engages in illegal downloading could

be sued by RIAA," Partridge said. "The RIAA has sued over 20,000 individuals, according to industry reports. Most settle by making a relatively small payment and agreeing to refrain from infringement in the future."

However in an attempt to avoid more trials, the RIAA has made an effort to bring awareness among music downloaders regarding the consequences of their actions.

"Several years ago [the RIAA] began a campaign to inform users of the risks of illegal downloads," Partridge said. "This campaign attracts much media attention and helps the RIAA educate consumers to understand that illegal downloading is a form of stealing."

Many CHS students believe that it is their right to download music. Of those students surveyed, 42% believe that it is fine to download music illegally. It is this belief that leads many Americans to disregard the copyright that is put on music.

Copyrights are important rights recognized in the U.S. Constitution to encourage the arts.

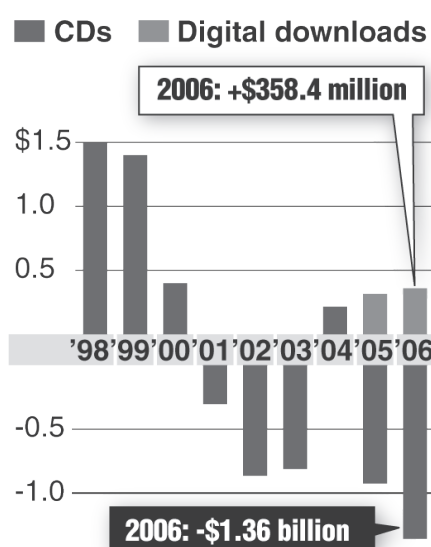
"By securing rights to the creators of music and other works, the creators can be compensated for the use of their creations and are encouraged to create more works," Partridge said. "If musicians and artists are deprived of payment, they may not have the means to continue to create and distribute creative works, depriving the public of the benefit of new creations."

Jammie Thomas is a single mother from Deluth, Minn., she is not a black market seller or an uncontrollable musical fiend and yet, Thomas is being charged with the biggest music downloading fine in the United States history. ☹

U.S. music sales

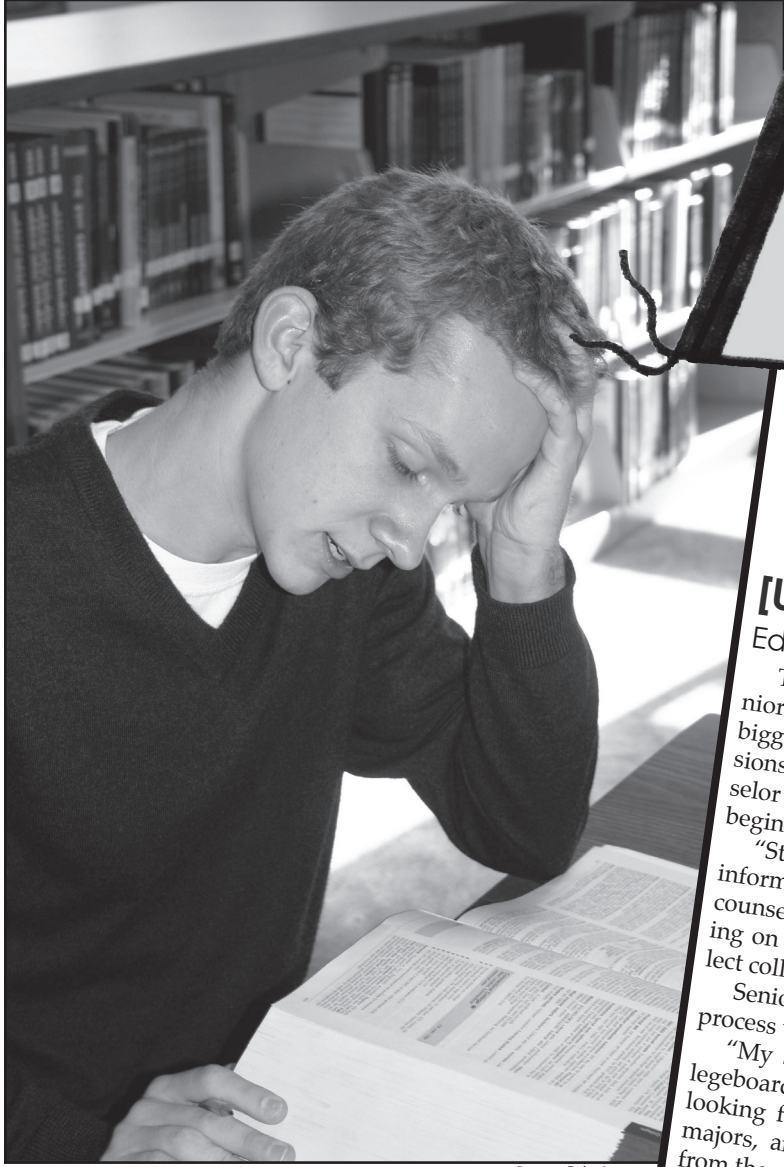
Despite increasing sales, music downloads are not offsetting the losses in CD shipments.

Change from previous year, scale in billions



Source: Recording Industry Association of America
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2007 MCT

COLLEGE PREP



Senior Joey Speck is one of the many seniors who are hitting the books this fall, hoping to make one last, strong impression on colleges as they get ready for college applications. The testing and application process adds one more layer of stress on students who are already often over-extended.

Bryan Griesbaum

Fall of senior year finds students stressed out gearing up for the final stages of high school as they visit schools, take tests and fill out college apps.

Applications

[Ugochi Onyema]
Editor

The fall season is all about changes, and seniors at CHS are preparing to make one of the biggest changes of their lives. College admissions is in full swing. According to college counselor Chat Leonard, the college planning process begins with experimentation.

"Students usually start out by getting lots of information from college representatives and counselors," Leonard said. "They then research on their own, narrow their choices, and select colleges that they would like to apply to."

Senior Blair Klostermeier's college planning process was similar to Leonard's description. "My search process began by going to collegeboard.com and looking for things that I am looking for in colleges like size, location, and from there," Klostermeier said.

Application cost is another factor in the college planning process, a factor that senior Alex Hutchinson took into consideration.

"My application process began with basically searching for the best colleges to apply to, keeping in mind the application costs," Hutchinson said. "I don't want to spend a lot to get into schools."

Underclassmen are also beginning the search process for colleges. Junior William Kass is looking for colleges based on his future major.

"I'm personally looking for something in an urban environment," Kass said. "I'm also thinking about being a music major, but so far all I've done is research and talk to my parents about my college choices."

Students usually apply to schools Early Decision, Early Action, Single Choice Early Action, Regular Decision, or Rolling Acceptance. The deadline for Early Decision is either Nov. 1

or Nov. 15, depending on the school, and students will receive acceptance letters by winter break. Applying Early Decision results in a binding agreement to go to a certain school.

Early Action generally has the same deadlines as Early Decision, but it is not a binding commitment, and students can apply to many schools at the same time.

Single Choice Early Action has a deadline of Nov. 1 as well, and although it is not binding, students are not allowed to apply to other schools through both Early Action and Early Decision applications. However, after students receive responses from schools, they are free to apply wherever else they like.

The deadline for Regular Decision is Jan. 1, and colleges send students their responses by early spring, usually around mid-March. Students should let colleges know about their decisions by May 1 if they apply Regular Decision.

The deadlines for Rolling Admissions vary, but the deadlines are generally set in the second semester, which reduces the pressure of applying to schools.

Leonard says that students are taking the initiative and applying on time.

"Most of our students are getting their applications in early, and the students who applied early decision by Nov. 1 will hear before winter break," Leonard said.

According to Leonard, students have a lot to do in order to meet this deadline.

"The things that need to be completed are the application (usually online), asking employers, teachers, ministers, etc for recommendations, and writing essays," Leonard said.

The application that most students use is the common application.

"The common application is good at a number of private schools across the country," Leonard said. "It gives six choices of essays that you can

respond to and send to all of the schools that you want to apply to, but public schools have their own set of questions. Many times, students are able to use their essays for the common application on essays for public schools."

Klostermeier said that applying to colleges has stressed her out, but her counselor has made the process bearable.

"My counselor is Mrs. Leonard, and when my parents and I met with her, she made me feel better about the whole process," Klostermeier said. "It helps to have someone who's been through the situation dozens and dozens of times. I feel stressed out, but you just have to sit down and get it done."

Hutchinson has a more calm outlook when it comes to college applications.

"It's kind of relaxed, if you know the due dates," Hutchinson said. "Then you know to work up to the due dates and turn everything in. The stressful part will be just doing it. It's just good to have a plan."

Leonard believes that it is normal for students to stress out over college applications, because there is so much to be done.

"They are feeling stress and pressure, especially for making the deadline," Leonard said. "They have to keep up with grades, maintain involvement in leadership and co-curricular activities, and they have to meet deadlines. They are also dealing with the anxiety of waiting for a response."

Up next for Klostermeier is waiting for her acceptance letters, choosing a school, and letting them know which school she will decide to go to. For Hutchinson, the specifics can wait.

"The next thing for me will be to celebrate," Hutchinson said. "I know that a lot of students are going to visit their colleges in the summer, but I'll just take the summer off and then go to the school in the fall." ☺

Entrance Exams

[Hannah Novack]
Staff Reporter

Throughout high school, students are constantly aware of the SAT and ACT tests they will eventually take junior and senior year. When junior year arrives, it is necessary for students to start preparing for the tests that are part of nearly all colleges' admissions processes.

"The best preparation [for the tests] is a solid academic foundation," college counselor Chat Leonard said. "As counselors, we recommend that students take four years of English, math, science and social studies."

There are many methods to prepare for these important tests. For example, there are a number of preparatory programs that provide students with a lot of practice and help to establish good test-

taking skills.

"A student may understand the content, but questions on the test may be worded differently," Leonard said. "Also, these programs help students learn to pace themselves."

In the past, Clayton has offered various prep courses for students. Last year, Clayton High School offered an ACT prep course during lunch, but due to a lack of attendance a lunch course is not presently offered.

Currently, CHS offers a three week summer SAT prep course and an ACT online prep course through the learning center. With the online course, a student can go at his or her own pace, and teachers are at hand to help with questions.

Courses outside of CHS are provided by various educational companies including The Princeton Review, Kaplan,

and Sylvan Learning Center.

Senior Vikram Chakravarthy, who has taken both the SAT and ACT, completed an SAT prep course through The Princeton Review last winter. The Princeton Review course is usually 8 to 12 weeks long, and is filled with real testing practice.

"A typical class consisted of mini drill sets that focused on a particular skill and a bit of teaching as well," Chakravarthy said. "Then every four weeks we would take a diagnostic test to determine how much we were improving."

Chakravarthy also used many books in addition to classes to study for the SAT and ACT, including books by The Princeton Review, College Board, The Real ACT, Barrons Educational Books, and The McGraw-Hill Companies.

Senior Maggie Renshaw also used an ACT prep book.

"The book was very helpful," Renshaw said. "When you get a practice question wrong the book explains why that particular answer is incorrect."

One major benefit of using a test prep book is that students can plan study sessions around their own individual schedules, as often or infrequently as they want.

"I could practice on my own time and the book included an introduction section giving different strategies for each section of the test," Renshaw said.

Renshaw also prepared for the ACT by meeting with a tutor. After meeting with a tutor, Renshaw gradually saw improvements.

"I went in to take the ACT and raised my score by four points," Renshaw said.

Leonard recommends that students take classes before taking the SAT and

ACT.

"The best time to begin preparing is early second semester of a student's junior year, which is closer to the test," Leonard said.

Leonard believes that prep courses are beneficial to students and gives students an advantage.

"A course helps students in the long run," Leonard said. "It helps to raise a student's academic profile."

Chakravarthy believes that one's attitude and commitment is a critical factor as to whether a prep course will be beneficial for a student.

"The way I see it is, regardless of whether you take a course or not, if you are not willing to work to improve your score than the course is not going to help you," Chakravarthy said. "You have to want to improve your score." ☺



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CHS provides preparation, encouragement necessary for undergraduate achievement

[Meredith Redick]

Staff Reporter

Clayton High School's mission is to provide a strong...program through which our students develop the knowledge and skills needed to be lifelong learners and to make meaningful contributions to the local, national, and global communities."

Students who have recently graduated from CHS are putting their skills to the test at college.

CHS alumnus Jaci Rifkin is studying cognitive neuroscience at University of Pennsylvania.

"Fortunately, I applied early decision, so I didn't have to worry about choosing between colleges to which I was accepted," Rifkin said. "Penn is a research-based university with countless research opportunities and great resources."

CHS graduate Johnny Buse now attends Grinnell University in Iowa.

"I really wanted a small school so that my classes would be personal and there wouldn't be too much red tape between me and what I want to do," Buse said. "Because Grinnell is so small, pretty much anything I want to do is accessible. Also, Grinnell's policy of self-governance makes the campus really open and friendly and extra-fun."

The transition between high school and college has been challenging for some students.

"I came into college thinking everything would sort itself out immediately: socially, academically, even nutritionally," Rifkin said. "But, in fact, it has taken a lot of time. It is only recently that I have fallen into a fairly regular schedule."

University of Wisconsin freshman Rachel Dickens also had a hard time adjusting.

"At a big state school like Wisconsin where there's a ton of stuff going on 24/7, it's insanely easy to get lost in the middle of everything," Dickens said. "It's just important to take classes and whatnot seriously, which can be very hard, but to go out and have lots of fun too!"

Dickens is studying political science and pre-law at Wisconsin.

"I want to be a lawyer, and I like money a lot, so I'll probably pursue some sort of corporate or medical law," Dickens said.

CHS alumnus Antoine Cathey is also set on a particular career.

"I plan to attend medical school and work as an ER physician or trauma surgeon," Cathey said.

Duke University sophomore Alison Byrnes plans to study math, psychology, and education.

"I want to be a middle school/high school math teacher, hopefully in low-income schools, and I want to join the Peace Corps," Byrnes said.

Other alumni are less sure of the career path they would like to pursue.

"[My] dream is to be a touring musician, but realistically I'd love to be able to just pay the bills making music," Loyola University freshman Michael Franco said.

There is no doubt, however, that Clayton has amply prepared college-bound students.

"I feel really prepared by Clayton in terms of work ethic, encouragement to participate in discussion, and test-taking," Dickens said.

Rifkin also believes that her education at CHS has helped her to succeed in college.

"The writing system at Clayton is unbelievable," Rifkin said. "Also, I have created study habits that are definitely coming in handy. I think between writing and studying I have come to Penn with a definite advantage."

Smith University freshman Lizzie Boulton feels that the science classes at CHS have been profitable.

"I am more than prepared for my science classes because of the wonderful Clayton science teachers," Boulton said. "I am definitely understanding a lot more than the average person in my chemistry class."

Vassar College freshman Andrew Davidson believes that the non-academic aspects of his education at Clayton were most valuable to him.

"I think a community would've developed anywhere I was. I would've found interests and I would've gotten involved, but Clayton gave me so many opportunities that are irreplaceable," Davidson said.

Davidson appreciated the teachers at CHS who encouraged him to participate in extracurricular activities.

"The best professors are the ones who encouraged me to succeed outside of school, to get involved in the community, to enter competitions, to perform else-

Clayton alums who have made an impact

SCOTT FOLEY	DERRICK FROST	ERIN DANIELS	JAIRUS BYRD	KATHRYN SANSONE	JAMES TURLEY
AN ACTOR APPEARING IN SCREAM 3 AND MORE NOTABLY, JENNIFER GARNER'S FIRST HUSBAND	IS THE PUNTER FOR THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS FOOTBALL TEAM. ONLY ALUM TO PLAY PRO FOOTBALL	AN ACTOR WHOSE BIGGEST ROLE WAS AN APPEARANCE IN THE MOVIE, ONE HOUR PHOTO	A RECENT ALUM WHO LED THE GREYHOUNDS TO A STATE FOOTBALL TITLE, NOW PLAYS FOR U OREGON	A PERSONAL TRAINER WHO HAS WRITTEN SELF HELP BOOKS FOR WOMEN; ALSO APPEARED ON OPRAH	SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN, NOW HE IS BOTH THE CHAIR AND CEO OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP
					

Siobhan Jones

where, and who showed a genuine interest in their students," Davidson said. "Not all of them were that way at Clayton, but the ones I remember and the ones I appreciate the most gave me something, confidence or sensibility or direction, that I can really appreciate in retrospect."

Although Clayton has prepared most graduates well, students are challenged to seek balance in their lives at college.

"I think in college you can easily fall into the no play-all work, or the no work-all play routine," Rifkin said. "Also, getting enough sleep is a big deal for me. I am working really hard to get sufficient hours of sleep each night, but it's tough. The thing about college is, there is so much going on!"

Davidson also describes a mind set different from

high school life.

"[You have to] own up to what's going on in your life," Davidson said. "You can't be too sensitive at college. If you make a mistake, it's made and you have to fix it. You find solutions and move on and it's done. As long as you're pro-active you will be fine."

There are some aspects of college life, however, that students have to accept.

"Waking up in the morning without a mom is the hardest part of my day every day," Buse said.

So far, alumni are working towards success with the skills they learned at CHS.

"Don't fear change, and don't hold yourself down," Davidson said. "Recognize who you are and what you're good at, and be honest with yourself, and love yourself." ☺

Scholastic bar set by one's desire to succeed

[Cameron Davis]

Staff Reporter

Is there such a thing as the perfect learner? All high schoolers have their own perceptions of what it is to be the ideal scholar, and at times desire to be just that. How do CHS teens perceive perfection as a student?

Sophomore Hannah Klein has her own idea of what the ideal student is.

"They have to be smart and involved in school activities," Klein said. "They also have to be friendly."

Klein also has her own list of factors that contribute to reaching perfection as a student.

"Hard work, little sleep, and dedication," Klein said.

To junior Mariah Smith, the perfect student is a bit more evolved.

"The perfect student is someone who is balanced in their school-work and activities," Smith said. "It is also someone who is a leader, someone who is respected by their peers and authorities, and someone who has integrity."

For seniors Steven Glynias and Drew Lefkowitz,

the ideal student takes a more proactive role in their education.

"Being an ideal student means being passionate about learning and taking on challenges at school," Glynias said. "It means being proactive in your learning and continuing to pursue education throughout your whole life, never being satisfied with what you think you know."

Lefkowitz agreed.

"Being the ideal student means applying yourself to all your classes because you truly love learning," Lefkowitz said. "It means participating in school activities and taking an active role in shaping the academic and social community at the school."

Despite the multiple opinions on what the model student is, all agreed that being the ideal scholar is achievable.

Glynias believes that the individual student determines success.

"I think that everyone has to make their own definition of what an ideal student is, and once you have figured out what being an ideal student mean to you, then it is only your responsibility to try to achieve your

ideals," Glynias said. "With that, being an ideal student is achievable because as long as you truly believe that you are doing your best, you can be ideal."

This arises the question: Does CHS pressure students into being an ideal student?

Klein believes that there is a degree of pressure in terms of getting students to get involved.

"Everyday in the announcements it's like 'go here! Join this club. Blah blah,'" Klein said.

Smith believes that CHS simply pushes students towards success.

"I feel like Clayton presses their students to be successful, because they value our differences, most times, and allow us to move forward into success," Smith said.

Lefkowitz also believes that there is a certain degree of pressure.

"I think CHS puts a certain pressure on students doing things to the best of their abilities," Lefkowitz said. "For many CHS students, this means participating in extracurricular activities and applying yourself to all your classes."

However, she believes that the student produces much have the drive as well.

Glynias, however, believes that CHS is not unique in the amount of pressure placed upon its students to succeed.

"Because the students at Clayton want to achieve, they work harder and are very competitive to achieve their goals, but I don't think that the school itself pressure students to work harder than they are willing to," Glynias said.

As seniors, both Lefkowitz and Glynias realized that perceptions of perfection changed as they got older.

"Conceptions about the ideal student change as we realize what we want out of our academic experiences and what we want to do for the rest of our lives," Lefkowitz said. "As we get older, we tend to focus on the things we love and sometimes neglect other extracurricular activities, but it doesn't make us any less ideal."

Glynias believed that students eventually realize the success is not determined by grades but by motivation and effort.

"I think that conceptions change as we go through school by the realization that more and more in our future life, our success will be measured by the effort that we put in," Glynias said.

Nevertheless, all recognized that obtaining the status of the ideal student really does not matter, and its importance is left up to the individual student.

"As long as each student is proud of their accomplishments and has achieved their dreams or done what they love, it doesn't matter if others view them as ideal," Lefkowitz said.

Klein also thought that being perfect in high school was not very important.

"As long as you're happy with yourself," Klein said.

To Glynias, striving towards perfection is worth more than actually reaching perfection as a student.

"I take pride in working hard and seeing what I can accomplish," Glynias said. "I don't know if anyone would call me an ideal student, but I certainly want to believe that the hard work I put in is proportionate to the success I have. So, yes, trying to be an ideal student is important to me because it makes me believe that I am setting myself up for success."

Smith has her own opinion in regards to the importance of being the model scholar.

"I believe it is important to be a successful student or the best student you can be," Smith said. "Asking for the ideal student is really like asking for the ideal human being." ☺



Xiaowen Zhang

Hamylak the ultimate multi-tasker

[Taylor Stone]

Staff Reporter

Students complain daily about excess homework, tests, projects, lab reports, and reading assignments. However, many members of the CHS faculty and staff receive just as much and more work to handle without a single complaint.

Most people know how diligently the CHS staff works, but some don't know the extent of that. Eric Hamylak, the CHS Student Activities Director, works. Hamylak truly represents the work ethic that Clayton is known for.

Five years ago Hamylak began working at CHS as a substitute teacher for three years while in school and then transitioned from Campus Supervisor to Assistant Activities Director, and finally to his current position as Activities Director.

"It would definitely be tough to find a similar position anywhere else," Hamylak said.

What does an Activities Director do, you may ask?

It turns out that list could go on forever. Hamylak oversees 70-80 different clubs and manages 60 different accounts.

He also sponsors several of these clubs, including Student Government (StuGo), Arts Fair Steering Committee, C Club, CHS Club, Dawg Pound, and Peers Protecting Peers. He also is in charge special events such as dances, Junior Challenge, elections, assemblies, the Arts Fair, and new student orientation.

"Part of my job is as a 'bookkeeper' with financial and planning work, and the other part is managerial," Hamylak said. He also coaches girls' soccer in the spring.

He says that the best part of his job is working with so many great students, but the extensive talk of Breathalyzers and dance etiquette has flipped around some aspects. He says that it has made his job both easier and harder.

"It's easier now because it seems that students are less likely to drink alcohol before coming to school activities and, therefore, there are fewer discipline issues to deal with," Hamylak said. "The only thing that has made my job more difficult is all the students and parents against the Breathalyzers, but I think the complaints will eventually fade. There are always proponents to any change. We are just trying to provide fun, but safe, alcohol-free activities for our students."

Hamylak says he enjoys working at CHS. "I think the main thing is that CHS has such a good reputation academically," Hamylak said.

This year Hamylak is looking forward to many favorite events such as the Impact Team's Indoor Soccer Night, Senior Send-off, the junior class sponsored Trivia Night, and the 'Candyland' themed Peppers Prom.

As busy as his job keeps him, Hamylak doesn't confine his activities to school.

"I'm big into photography and am pursuing it as a career," Hamylak said.

But no worries, he's not leaving the school any time soon, even though he spent the last summer photographing some weddings with his dad. He is also from Connecticut and a big Boston Red Sox fan. ☺

Panda cookies encourage girl to help endangered species

[Ting Lu]
Staff Reporter

"I am the national treasure. I hate noise." I laughed as I read the big sign by the fence of the baby panda playground at the Panda Research Base in Chengdu, China. Like the hundreds of people around me, I found the sign very cute. I immediately reached for my camera but was shoved aside by a tourist. Pretty soon, I was blocked by the tens of thousands of tourists standing in front of me, all anxiously waiting to take pictures of Yong Yong, the giant baby panda. I caught a glimpse of his furry black eyes, peeking at me from behind a bamboo stick. Cameras flashed as the giant panda sprawled across his wooden bed - belly down, face first, paws out to the side - and struck his signature pose.

I was there for two main purposes - to do volunteer work, and to take as many pictures of the pandas as possible. On the first day, I was given a tour of the entire research base. My tour guide Li took me to the panda's playgrounds. The playgrounds were quite inspiring. They were made up of wooden logs, slides that the pandas never actually went on, swings, and an infinite supply of bamboo sticks.

A wire fence surrounded the playgrounds. Li explained that the

fence had an electric current, and every time a panda tried to step out of its boundaries, the fence would deliver a shock and make the panda back off. Li then pointed to a pile of whitish-green junk by the panda's rear end.

"That's panda feces," Li said. Soon, everyone became fascinated with it. They pointed at it, remarking with admiration.

"Pandas do not digest their bamboo well," Li said. "What they eat goes in and comes out the other way half an hour later."

Next, Li took us to the "loner panda" playground where a single panda lay on a gray rock with his face towards the sky.

"He has no friends," Li said. He explained that the panda had just returned from Japan and was still recovering from a long period of loneliness.

Up ahead, I saw a big, fat panda sitting on a tree trunk with an abundant supply of fresh, green bamboo in front of him. Li told us that this was where people took pictures with the panda - for a shocking price of four hundred Yuan (one US dollar is equivalent to 7.5 Yuan). At first I thought it was crazy, but the more I thought about it, the more I wanted a picture.

"He is the nice panda," Li said. "He won't hurt you."

Without hesitation, I bravely stepped up to the tree trunk and



Three pandas lounge at the Panda Research Base in Chengdu, China. Reporter Ting Lu volunteered here and helped prepare food for the mammals. This food, called panda cookies, is made of honey, corn, apples, vitamins and Centrum A to Z.

handed in my four hundred Yuan. I handed Li my camera and stepped behind the panda, who was happily munching on the thick bamboo sticks like they were potato chips. I remember being slightly nervous as I stood behind the panda. I had feared that he would all of a sud-

den turn around and scratch at me with his sharp paws. Thankfully, as Li took the pictures, the panda continued to chew his bamboo with glee. Now, every time I look at my pictures, I can't help thinking that the pictures were worth every bit of the four hundred Yuan.

The second day at the research base, I was supposed to start working. I was taken to the food-preparing section of the research base and met Tan, the food-preparing expert. I remember how he held out a big, puke-colored, muffin-like object. "This is a panda cookie," he said.

"It contains honey, corn, apple, vitamins, and Centrum A to Z. You can even eat it if you want."

Tan then taught me how to make the panda cookies.

"Put a lot of honey," Tan said. "Pandas like honey."

Not only do pandas like honey; but, like, humans, they need nutrients. What surprised me more was that pandas needed 50 kilograms of bamboo per day.

By the end of the day, I was exhausted. Preparing panda food had required a lot of stirring, pounding, squashing and hauling of bamboo. After I became familiar with the process of getting food ready, I was expected to do the same for the next two days.

As I look back, I realize preparing panda food was one of the most interesting experiences I had at the research base. I also realized how lucky I was to have the privilege of going to the panda research base.

At the end of the week, I was sad to be leaving; I had grown extremely attached to the pandas and did not want to leave them. Although I have memories and pictures to remind myself of my experiences in Chengdu, I still promised myself that I would go back and visit the pandas someday. This experience inspired me to encourage other people to help the pandas and to prevent them from becoming extinct. ☺



Globe editors Ugochi Onyema, Hyrum Shumway, Fontasha Powell, Kelly Moffitt and Nava Kantor finish up the November issue of the newspaper in the Globe office.

Behind the scenes of the Globe

[Jeoma Onyema]
Staff Reporter

Covering news around CHS, the nation, and the world, the Globe staff takes its role as reporters and editors seriously.

"Our purpose is to inform, persuade, and entertain the CHS and Clayton community," adviser Nancy Freeman said.

Freeman, who has been working at CHS for 12 years and teaching journalism for 20, believes that the students [on staff] learn to be responsible, good students, and good citizens when learning journalism during high school. The students learn many life values from Freeman, which inspire them to write.

"Our newspaper adviser Nancy Freeman is the best, quite literally," Co-Editor in Chief Kelly Moffitt said. "She is one of the best in the business. I didn't really realize how lucky we, the staff, were until last year when I went to National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) with her and some of the other senior managing editors. Everyone I talked to either knew of her or wanted to know her. Personally, any time I have a problem, with a story, or the paper, or even personally, she is always there to talk it through and help me out with advice. She is a superb person."

One important section of the newspaper is the people who write the stories. Reporters make up the majority of the newspaper staff. All story ideas are created by staff members, who compose at least one idea for each section of the newspaper per month.

"After the story ideas are decided, the reporters sign up for a story and we discuss who [in the community] would be a good key source for their story," Freeman said.

The journalists then go out and interview people, take the information gathered, and find an effective way to "weave" it all into a story using journalism style, a different style than that taught in English classes.

"I think newspaper writing has helped me improve my writing skills, explore different topics, find new conclusions, and talk to people better [with interviewing]," sophomore Taylor Stone said. Stone plans to stay on staff for the rest of her high school career.

After students turn in rough drafts, Freeman gives feedback to the students on how to make the story better. The journalists then edit their papers and send it to the editors.

The editors revise all the stories for the last time before they are published.

"Each editor has a page every issue and they must learn to fit their stories on the page and design it so it is pleasing to the eye," Moffitt said.

There are three types of editors: section editors, senior managing editors, and editors in chief.

Seniors Moffitt and Nava Kantor are this year's Co-Editors in Chief.

"Editors in chief are sort of the executive directors of the Globe," Kantor said. "Kelly and I lead meetings, organize and oversee the production of the paper, and handle any sort of controversy as it comes up. Senior

managing editors also have a say in editorial decisions and take a leadership role in producing the paper."

The section editors each lay out one page for every issue in addition to writing stories.

"As the year goes on, they learn more design and writing skills," Kantor said. "In the spring they can apply for senior editing positions for the next year, as most of them are juniors."

The Globe is supported by advertisers and those who subscribe to the Globe.

"We raise all of the money we spend through selling ads and subscriptions," Kantor said. "We definitely have advertisers that have consistently been very generous to our paper. The school supports us by providing our equipment, but we are economically independent [as far as the publication of the paper]. This is quite an accomplishment considering the thousands of dollars it takes to print a broadsheet, 24-page paper every month."

However, reporting and fund-raising are not the only aspects that go into making the Globe strong.

"Besides regular stories, the paper includes photos, advertisements, and student-made art," Freeman said.

Kantor adds that the paper includes photo essays, computer-made graphics, news briefs, the occasional student poll, and information boxes.

"All of these, besides the ads, are student-generated," Kantor said.

The seniors have learned many priceless lessons from their years of journalistic writing.

"The many invaluable things I have learned through my time working on the Globe include how to ask good interview questions, the art of delegation, how to solve problems between co-workers, how to give a gentle reprimand to someone if they need it, the wonders of Photoshop and the InDesign program we use for layout, a thorough knowledge of the House of India menu, how to survive the insane stress of deadline...I could go on forever," Kantor said.

Moffitt has also learned many valuable lessons from her time on the Globe staff. "I have learned patience, especially when stories come in late," Moffitt said. "I have also learned that mistakes happen and that if you are willing to print something you've got to be willing to take the criticism. At first I would get really worked up when something went wrong, but now I take it with a grain of salt and try to improve for next time."

Kantor also said that she enjoys getting to know students from all different grade levels. Although Kantor is considering the possibility, she will most likely not major in journalism or communications in college.

"I would like to work on the student paper of whatever school I go to, though," Kantor said.

However, Moffitt is applying to colleges with a journalism major in mind.

"I love newspaper. It is literally my favorite thing I have probably ever done with my life. I am so glad I joined to learn that about myself," Moffitt said. "I don't want to wait any longer to do what I love professionally." ☺

Jewish-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding

[Gila Hoffman]
Senior Managing Editor

Every month for two hours, 11 Muslim and 11 Jewish teenagers come together to participate in a unique experience.

They call it JAM: Jews and Muslims. The official name, however, is the Sidney and Anna Frager Jewish Teen Dialogue. It was started in March 2006 from a grant given in memory of the Fragers by their daughter. JAM is a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis. This year, the program is co-facilitated by SLU undergraduate student Tahreem Aziz and JCRC employee Fawn Chapel.

The program started with a one-day retreat in September, so that the group members could get to know each other. Local religious leaders from both the Islamic and Jewish religions gave introductions to each of the two religions.

"We talk about issues pertaining to both religions and how we feel about the issues," senior Sara Rangwala said. "We talk about living in the United States with our religions and the difficulties behind that."

At each meeting, the group engages in active listening and they participate in a dialogue session. They discuss religious intolerance, stereotypes, women's issues, and the things that they love about their religion.

One of the interesting aspects of JAM is when members are able to share their personal traditions.

"They meet outside of the group with two or three other members and share holidays and traditions and they experience them together," Chapel said. "One of the Jewish kids had some of the Muslims come over to her house for a Sukkah party. A few of the Muslims invited a group of Jewish teens to go to an Indian restaurant with them because that is part of their culture."

After discussing their favorite foods at a meeting,

the group decided that they would hold a potluck meal and bring the recipes of their favorite dishes to share.

At their most recent meeting, the group discussed different stereotypes in both religions.

"As an educated person I don't believe in these stereotypes, but it was interesting to learn where they came from and how they were created," Rangwala said.

While junior Diane Martin admits to sometimes coming under the influence of the stereotypes from the media, she has learned how to dispel these stereotypes.

"I think the goal of the group is to take what we have learned into the community, so that other people can learn to break stereotypes as well," Martin said.

The group plans to hold a community service event this year to share their experiences of JAM with the community. "My experience in the group has been so great and I want to bring that to other people," Rangwala said.

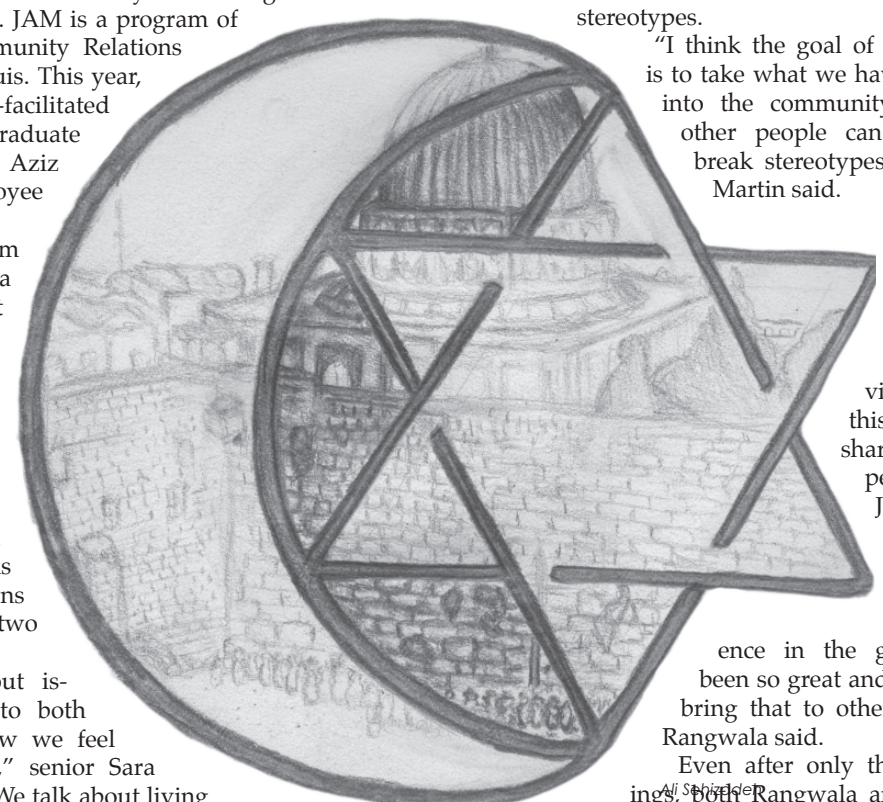
Even after only three meetings, both Rangwala and Martin have learned a lot through the experience.

"There is a preconceived idea that Jews and Muslims have opposite viewpoints and are completely different and always in conflict," Martin said. "From the first meeting we established so many similarities and we continue to do so at every meeting."

Rangwala said that she has learned not only about the Jewish culture, but her own as well.

Both Martin and Rangwala are optimistic about the future of the group.

"I hope to continue to learn about each other," Rangwala said. "I think that even in the three meetings we have had, I've learned so much more than I could have ever imagined. Every meeting refreshes my feelings about how great the experience is." ☺



Washington University in St. Louis
Department of Music Events
 Event information: (314) 935-5566

<p>December 1, 4:00 PM - Chamber Winds Recital Hall, 560 Music Center (at Trinity and Delmar)</p> <p>December 6, 8:00 PM - Guitar Gala Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus</p> <p>December 8, 3:00 PM - Student Recital: Charlotte Fong, piano E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center (at Trinity and Delmar)</p> <p>December 8, 7:30 PM - Concert Choir Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus</p> <p>December 9, 3:00 PM - Messiah Sing-Along Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus</p>	<p>December 9, 8:00 PM - Faculty Recital: Bill Lenihan, jazz guitar E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center (at Trinity and Delmar)</p> <p>December 10, 8:00 PM - Flute Choir Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus</p> <p>December 11, 8:00 PM - Chamber Ensembles Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus</p> <p>December 12, 8:00 PM - Jazz Band Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall, Danforth Campus</p> <p>December 14 & 15, 8:00 PM - Opera Scenes Karl Umrath Hall Lounge, Danforth Campus</p>
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Fellowship of Christian Athletes offers sense of community, friendship to variety of CHS students

[Sarah Horn]
Editor

Every Tuesday evening at around 8:20 p.m. a group of CHS students can be seen in the commons, holding hands and closing their eyes as they end their club meeting with a prayer.

The club is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA, which is a group of CHS students whose mission is "to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church."

FCA is one of the most popular clubs in CHS, including freshman, sophomore, junior and senior members. The sponsor is Ann Barber who works along with three student leaders, senior Blair Klostermeir, junior Shannon Harms and sophomore Mary Blackwell.

The club is available to anyone who wishes to join, even if the person is not Christian or an athlete.

"FCA is a place for Christian students to gather to discuss topics like friendship, dating, and persever-

ance," Klostermeir said. "Being an athlete is not mandatory, it just can help because the topics are related to sports and teams to bring understanding."

Harms also believes that FCA is a great club for anyone who is interested.

"Everyone should know that FCA is not exclusive," Harms said. "Just because you're not an athlete or you're not very confident in your faith definitely doesn't mean you're not welcome. The point of FCA is to learn and understand about Christianity through sports analogies and how to live as a Christian on and off the field."

FCA is also well-known for having entertaining games. Sophomore Shelby Sternberg's favorite part of FCA is enjoying the food, company and games with the group.

"My favorite activity is the ever popular kickball game," Sternberg said. "We usually play it on the first meeting in the quad, but we have tons of great activities."

While the games are always fun, Harms favorite part lies in the message itself.

"My favorite activity at FCA is the actual lesson itself," Harms said. "Blair Klostermeir, Mary Blackwell, and I choose ahead of time the topic we are going to discuss, such as 'What does it mean to be a Christian Athlete?' or 'Being Authentic.' I really enjoy hearing what everyone's opinions are."

Blackwell also enjoys the spiritual aspect of FCA.

"Being a member has helped me stay in check spiritually and reminded me that there are other Christians at CHS," Blackwell said.

Junior Preston Newell, another member of FCA, likes the opportunities that FCA offers.

"It's really given me a chance to see who shares my own beliefs in Clayton and has also given me the privilege to know people I can talk to about my faith," Newell said.

Harms, Klostermeir and Blackwell are all proud and excited to be leaders of the club.

"I am really enjoying being a leader," Klostermeir said. "First of all it is making it easier for me to talk to and relate to different people. I have found it fulfilling to be an integral part of others learning about their

faith and about God."

Harms loves being a leader because she enjoys being a role model for younger students.

"I absolutely love being a leader this year," Harms said. "The younger people in FCA come to you for advice about anything, and it feels good to know that they're comfortable talking with you. Even people outside of FCA ask me about it, and now we have some new faces this year."

While FCA is a fairly popular club, Blackwell thinks some new members could add more to the diversity of the group.

"What we really need in FCA is more boys, most of them left last year and I think we're all sick of the girls way outnumbering the boys at every meeting," Blackwell said.

The bottom line is that FCA offers a safe place for important issues to be discussed, all the while having fun and meeting new people.

"I like always having people I can get together with once a week to discuss anything with," Sternberg said. ☺

Clayton-Ladue rivalry bothers students who attend both schools

[Mary Blackwell]
Staff Reporter

The Ladue vs. Clayton rivalry is the cause of intense sporting events, fist fights, and dislike between students.

For the students who transfer from Ladue to Clayton or from Clayton to Ladue, the rivalry can be the cause of confusion, uneasiness, and discomfort.

Clayton student Morgan Stoner transferred from Ladue to the Clayton school district in eighth grade and felt apprehension about transferring to the rival school.

"I was really nervous," Stoner said. "I thought that everyone would kind of hate me knowing I was coming from Ladue, but they were really nice about it. Most people joked around a little bit saying like oh my god, I can't believe you're from Ladue, but they were just joking."

It seems that both schools are fairly welcoming to new students from the "enemy camp." Sophomore Tyler Eastman moved into the Ladue school district from Clayton before freshman year.

"It actually didn't matter to me that it was a rival school; transferring schools is always scary and exciting at the same time," Eastman said. "That's the way I felt on my first day at Ladue."

Ladue student Sawyer Cribbs agreed that the sometimes intense rivalry doesn't have a big affect on the way Clayton students are treated at Ladue.

"I've seen transfer students from Clayton, and we treat them very nicely," Cribbs said. "We tease them, but that's about it."

Both students found their old friends to be more opposed to the transfer than students at their new school.

"They thought it was a little weird," said Stoner. "But they were glad I was staying close to home."

"Most [Ladue] kids were fine with it; it was actually the kids from Clayton who gave me the most trouble," Eastman said. "Kids at Ladue would just tease me and call me a traitor and stuff like that; they were never serious, and they don't care at all anymore."

The hostility between the two schools usually



The sometimes intense Clayton-Ladue rivalry has boiled overboard at sporting events. Pictured above, Clayton battles it out against Ladue at a varsity basketball game while fans from both public schools attend and eagerly watch with anticipation during a very heated match.

breaks out at sporting events, where tensions are high and fans are excited.

"I guess it started like any school rivalry," Cribbs said. "Many people on sports teams didn't like each other so they decided to be rivals."

Ladue and Clayton transfer students find sports games to be complex.

"The games are always a lot of fun for me because I get to see a lot of the kids that I don't get to see as much

from Clayton," Eastman said. "But the only problem for me is that I don't always know where to sit."

Stoner agreed that seating can be difficult.

"I had no idea which side to sit on," Stoner said. "It was a little weird at first."

Both schools have school spirit and a sense of rivalry, but which school's hatred is deeper?

"From what I've seen, it's stronger at Clayton," Stoner said. "But I never went to Ladue High School

so I don't know if it's different at the High School and Middle School."

Eastman agreed that Clayton High School students do have greater feelings of rivalry.

"I'd have to say Clayton," Eastman said. "I don't know why; the kids there are just more pumped up about sports than they are at Ladue. Unfortunately, Ladue's more academic-oriented, and they don't get as hyped for sporting events." ☺



After the final bell many CHS students who have their license drive home, some drive others as well



Pictured above, a sign at a Saint Louis Department of Motor Vehicles where people get their license

New drivers experience excitement, learn much responsibility

[Tian Qiu]
Senior Managing Editor

Like many teenagers, senior Vanessa Moore looks forward to the driving experience, and more specifically, owning a car, even though Moore's first car will be her grandfather's used soccer-mom-van.

However, Moore's twin brother, Evan Moore, isn't so lucky.

"[Evan] is paying for a car with his own money all by himself," Vanessa Moore said. "He's paying for everything but the car insurance, which my parents are going to pay for. My parents felt that it's important for Evan to understand the financial commitment for

owning a vehicle and the best way to do that is to earn the money for it by himself."

As for Vanessa Moore, she believes that her parents will make her pay for some of the costs associated with owning a car too.

"[Evan] works as a lifeguard, but I don't have a job," Vanessa Moore said. "If my parents make me pay for some of the insurance and gas, I'll have to take my savings and pay for it, or get some kind of temporary job."

Like Evan Moore, many CHS students, such as junior Caitlin Bladt, take financial responsibilities for their cars.

"[My parents and I] worked out how much of my paycheck should be for insurance and gas," Bladt said.

"So over the summer, when my paychecks were larger, I was paying for more of the insurance and such."

Some CHS students, however, enjoy their driving privileges without having to think about the financial commitments just yet.

"I don't pay," senior Mary Goodman said. "I just get to drive it since it's technically my parents' car. I probably won't get a car until I'm financially secure enough."

Though senior Sam Jewett, who has had a car for a year, doesn't have to pay for any of the related costs, he believes that he would drive less if he did.

"I can't afford \$40 of gas a week," Jewett said.

By paying for the costs, many CHS students learned to take a further step into the real world.

"I've learned how to break a paycheck up into car payments, savings, and spending money, which I think will be really helpful in the future," Bladt said. "I'm terrified of getting in an accident or getting a ticket because then, my insurance costs will go up and I'll have to pay way more."

Senior Kyle Bauer, who got a job right after he started driving a year and half ago to pay for half of his car insurance, summarizes his lesson in one sentence.

"Pennies go a long way," Bauer said.

For others, the lesson will come a little later.

"When I start paying, I'll learn that I should have gotten a job a long time ago," Vanessa Moore said. "Also, having a car is a big responsibility and I have to act grown up if I want one." ☺

Passion drives student musicians to excel

[Katherine Greenberg]

Staff Reporter

Accomplished musicians and athletes have much in common. Those who excel dedicate a great deal of time and energy to perfecting their skills. They persevere and work through the inevitable setbacks faced during tryouts and competitive events.

However, in the high school setting, musicians are often overlooked while athletes are given much recognition for their accomplishments. Clayton High School is no exception to this general rule.

While many fans cheer on soccer, football and hockey teams, CHS has quietly built an outstanding music program. The orchestra, band, jazz band and choir are all filled with exemplary students who work very hard.

Three specific students who have worked hard to excel at their instruments include senior Drew Lefkowitz, junior Ben Portner and senior Jack Callahan.

Band director Charles Blackmore believes that a desire to excel and love of music adds to their level of talent.

"These students and most of the jazz band students have a great interest in jazz music and practice for many hours," Blackmore said.

Lefkowitz has been playing the alto saxophone since sixth grade and feels that she can never get bored with music.

"I continue playing because I love jazz and I love learning new skills," Lefkowitz said. "I never get tired of listening to the music; there is also always more theory to learn and more solos to transcribe."

Portner has been playing percussion for five years. While he is committed to playing in Symphonic Band and other school performances, on Fridays he plays at Pat's Bar and Grill in a friend's band called the "Mat Villager Quartet".

"I like to make beautiful music," Portner said. "The better you get, the more fun it is to play and strive to reach the level of playing where you can make amazing music."

All of the students sometimes find it fairly difficult to balance school and an extra curricular activity that takes up so much time. However, these students have worked hard to be able to manage their time in order to excel in both school and music.

Jack Callahan decided that he had to be a musician after hearing a classmate play guitar for show-and-tell. "I have been playing guitar and percussion for about seven years," Callahan said. "I spend probably around 25-30 hours per week playing music, and about 5-10 hours per week either composing or recording."

"These students are role models for younger students," Blackmore said. "They are always going the extra mile and taking all of the necessary steps that they need to in order to excel."

Callahan, Portner and Lefkowitz are trying to continue their music education following high school.

"I am looking at pursuing music as a profession, but is risky because there's not a lot of money in it and it's a very unstable career," Portner said. "I want to go to music school and keep practicing. However, because music is such an unstable profession I will probably get a degree in something else while still continuing to play."

This year Lefkowitz visited some of the top music schools in the country including, NYU and Miami of Ohio.

"I am going to continue playing after high school," Lefkowitz said. "I am going to major in music education with a jazz emphasis. It is my passion and I want to continue playing throughout my life."

Portner wants to pursue music as a career because to him, music relieves stress.

"It is amazing to sit down and beat out all of your



photo courtesy of Ben Portner

Portner plays vibes in his living room with close friends Josh and Jo'el Williams, who also enjoy music.

aggression on the drums," Portner said. "Also, playing in front of an audience is an amazing feeling. It is hard to describe, but it is like the kind of rush you get when playing a sport."

Callahan plays drums in five bands outside of school and is currently trying out for a sixth band,

"The City is Sinking."

"I'm definitely going to keep playing out of high school, but I'm not sure if I'm going to focus on music in college," Callahan said. "I want to split my focus between philosophy and music," Callahan said. "I love music, both aesthetically and emotionally." ☺

Contact lenses popular, provide alternative to glasses



Julia Reilly

Junior Lisa Einstein inserts contacts in bathroom. Students often switch to contacts because they provide more comfort during athletics.

[Kuang Zong]

Staff Reporter

Although many people are not comfortable at the prospect of placing a foreign object in their eye, contact lenses are extremely popular among students at CHS. Contact lenses have been around for many decades and are now more convenient and safer than ever before, thus contributing to the newfound popularity in the student population.

Junior Mack Su wears both contacts and glasses; however, he started wearing contact lenses in seventh grade and feels that they are more comfortable than cumbersome spectacles.

"Contacts allow me greater mobility during athletic activities," Su said. "I don't have to worry about glasses interfering with my ability to see the ball while playing tennis and I don't have to worry about glasses resting on my nose."

When placed on the eye, contact lenses correct vision as well as eyeglasses. In fact, they may even improve vision. Unlike eyeglasses, contact lenses offer more peripheral vision, or "side vision." Contact lenses move with the wearer's eyes

so everything appears sharp, even at the edge of the one's vision. Since contact lenses are placed directly onto the cornea, no vision distortion occurs at sides. Junior Katie Poplawski wears only one contact lens, in her left eye, and also prefers contact lenses to traditional eyeglasses.

"Contacts are so much better for running," Poplawski said. "When it's raining you can still see and glasses fog up. Once you learn to put them in, you'll find that they are actually easier."

However, there exist many who still like to wear eyeglasses because they provide comfort. Junior Jacob Goldsmith would rather wear glasses because he feels that contacts are hazardous.

"Although contacts may offer better vision, I can't stand the thought of sticking something into my eyes daily" Goldsmith said.

Freshman Neerav Goswami agrees with Goldsmith and also prefers glasses.

"When looking for glasses, I usually look for darker frames and lenses that aren't too large," Goswami said. "I mostly wear glasses for the benefit of comfort, not fashion." ☺

Frequently Asked Questions About Contact Lenses

Who can wear contact lenses?

Most people can. Recent advances in contact lenses include astigmatism-correcting lenses, bifocals, daily disposables, and frequent-replacement lenses. Whether you're nearsighted or farsighted, older or younger, you can probably wear some type of contact lens.

Can they cause damage to the cornea?

Contact lenses have proven to be a healthy vision option for millions of people. But only your eye care professional can determine if they are healthy for you. If you follow all prescribed steps for inserting, removing, and caring for them, contact lenses will continue to be safe and effective. You also need to see your eye care professional regularly to insure long-term corneal health.

At what age can contact lens wear begin?

As soon as the need for vision correction is identified, contact lenses are a viable option. In fact, they have frequently been used in premature infants, who sometimes have vision problems. With proper care and lens maintenance, infants, young children, teens, and adults of all ages can wear contacts effectively.

Should I wear contact lenses while playing sports?

Sports vision doctors agree that contact lenses are the best vision correction option for athletes. They can enhance visual skills like depth perception, peripheral awareness, and eye-hand/eye-foot coordination. Unlike glasses, contacts offer athletes a competitive advantage because they stay in place under dynamic conditions, provide a wider vision field, and eliminate the risk of glasses-related injuries. Contact lenses also make it easy to wear protective goggles.

courtesy of contactlenses.org

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Captain's Phone #: _____

2) _____

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Dear readers,

The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, and represent the student body at CHS to the best of its ability.

The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Ads range in size from business card to full page; prices vary. Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year. We find these options particularly useful for parents, for no amount of begging or friendly reminders can compel a high schooler to remember to bring home a copy.

We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, warnings, threats, sabotage attempts, arrest warrants, and libel suits should be forwarded to the Globe Office (see contact info below), not the Superintendent's.

--the Globe editors

"Making your world go 'round since 1919"

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Large music pirating fine serves as just punishment

Since the invention of Napster revolutionized the music industry, the illegal sharing of music has only increased. After suffering the steady decline of sales, the large record companies have filed over 26,000 lawsuits since 2003 against people for illegally sharing music. All of the cases have been settled with minimal fines of a few thousand dollars total and no court appearances.

Jammie Thomas, a 30 year-old single mother from the middle of Minnesota, was the first individual downloader in a lawsuit to actually go to trial. After a three-day trial, she was ordered to pay six different record companies \$9,250 per song for 24 different songs; \$220,000 total. According to the record companies, she had allegedly illegally downloaded a total of 1,702 songs but was only charged for 24 of them.

The question that everyone is asking is "Was the fine fair or not?" Obviously it is tough for anyone to answer that question. Thomas was simply taking advantage of a resource that many others were using too, Kazaa. Other people were doing the exact same thing so why should she be penalized such a hefty fine? Why should she be tortured by having to pay \$220,000 in addition to the thousands in lawyer fees?

Well, the simple answer is that she was breaking the law. When people pirate music, the record companies suffer. When a person does something illegal, whatever the action, they need to understand that there might be consequences. The majority of the people have

simply decided that the possibility that they will be caught is so small and unlikely that their illegal action is worth it. People know that illegally downloading music is against the law. People know that if they are caught, they will have to pay money. People simply have decided that they would rather have the music instead of facing a penalty in the possibility that they are caught.

Copyright violation is a major crime. Imagine if everyone went around in the movie theatres with a video recorder and kept the tapes. Imagine if people bought videos, recorded them and gave them out to anyone. Imagine if someone had 1,700 illegally recorded videos in their home. Wouldn't they suffer even harsher consequences? Shouldn't it be the same in the music industry? People need to be responsible for their actions.

First of all, the woman did have the opportunity to pay a small fine. As with every other person before her involved in the some 26,000 lawsuits, Thomas could have paid the minimal fee of a few thousand dollars. Instead she decided to take her chances in court. She had an opportunity to pay less and thought she could get out of it: a bit greedy.

What about the record companies? They had attorney fees. They had other court costs. Their profits have been dwindling since the music sharing revolution. Shouldn't they be reimbursed?

Now these large music corporations are not out of money by any means. But they are in a losing battle. What else are they supposed to do? Should they simply drop everything and let anyone and everyone steal music from them; music that they spent money and resources recording.

Some people argue that the record companies are making too much profit and charging too much money for music. Charging expensive songs does not entitle people to simply steal their product. It is no more justified than if people were to steal gasoline because the oil companies are too rich. Lists are no allowed to free music, no matter how wrong they think the companies are for charging what they do. Opportunities are everyone for free music. People can listen to the radio, watch MTV, or find legal music on the internet from reputable sources; however, if they want to own it, they must be willing to pay the price.

Thomas can be angry about the decision. Along with the rest of the public that agree with her, she has to realize that she stole something. She committed a crime. She broke the law. The music companies and the courts have the right to make her pay.

The fine of \$220,000 is a lot of money to fine a single mom living in the middle of Minnesota. At the same time, the recording corporations were completely justified. Thomas should have been fined. She missed her chance to pay a measly few thousand dollars and ended up paying the consequence, literally.

Staff Editorial

Agree **69%**
Disagree **31%**

Body Worlds disappoints

As I walked into the Body Worlds 3 exhibit, I already had an expectation. The exhibit would be scientific and explain the human body and its functions. As I walked out, I was appalled at what I had just seen. Body Worlds 3 or perhaps any of the other body worlds exhibits are not science at all. They do not belong in a science center.

Out of the 300 or so exhibits of human bodies, only one really educates and teaches about the human body, which is the sculpture that separates one body and displays the muscles separately, the bones separately and other body systems. No other bodies teach science; they are just real human bodies with their skin flayed off and put into poses of athletes and other grotesque forms. Von Hagen's sculpture of *man holding skin* is an almost exact replica of Gaspar Becerra 16th century print.

This is art. He veils it as science in order to display his creations to the world because no respected sane art museum would ever allow this "art" in its museum. Another distinctive characteristic of artwork that Von Hagen displays in his creations is that he signs every body with his signature.

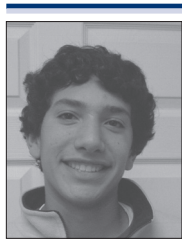
Throughout my many years of participating in

Science Fair, we were absolutely not to have our name or any hint on the presentation of who might have created the science project. That is science. Since he signs his bodies, clearly it is art not science.

So far, it has been my courteous behavior to even address these creations as art, because truly it is not even art. According to *Der Spiegel News* Von Hagen's father was a Nazi SS officer during World War II; it is obvious where Von Hagen got his interest in playing and experimenting with human bodies. This is more of Nazi science and experimentation than art.

Der Spiegel also reported that Von Hagen was planning on building a "Cathedral of Science" in Poland. His "Cathedral of Science" comes complete with a dissection table as its altar. This factory would be used to complete bodies that he uses in his shows. What a surprise! A German building a factory to process dead bodies in Poland. That doesn't sound familiar!

Profoundly this "science presentation" of Von Hagen is clearly not science, it is a spectacle of the deep and disturbing mind of Von Hagen and his way of having fun.



[Daniel Iken]

Finding beauty at Banff Park

How many Canadian national parks can you name off the top of your head? If the answer is none, I guess it is because most Americans choose to go to the ones in the western United States. Over the years, I've been to Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, Grand Canyon National Park and Olympic National Park. Even after all these expeditions to national parks, I still think that Banff National Park in Canada stands out among famous North American parks in many ways.

Although this place is a popular vacation spot for Canadians, many Americans may not have heard of it. It is a national park in Alberta, within driving distance of Calgary. I went to Banff over the summer, and now that I've spent time there, I want to go back every summer.

Banff is a perfect summer retreat because the high temperatures there are in the mid-1970s in late July and early August, while St. Louis usually swelters in 100 degree weather around the same time. However, any well-planned traveler should consider spending winter break there as well.

The main attractions of the national park are its mountains, glaciers and pristine lakes. The lakes are honestly the most gorgeous lakes I have ever seen in my life. They are deep blue or turquoise because of minerals in the water, and almost all the lookout points on the roads offer good views of the lakes. Not only is the color so unusual, but the lakes and surrounding areas are also very clean and unpolluted. It is a refreshingly natural experience.

The other two features, however, the mountains and glaciers, look even better in the winter. These can be enjoyed to their fullest if vacationers utilize the countless skiing facilities. Banff thrives off the tourist industry, particularly the skiing industry. Although I have only gone skiing once in my life, I still think Banff would be the ideal place to try again. Skiers are surrounded by mountains and glaciers; it is a great winter haven. Banff also has a wide variety of wildlife. When

we were there, we saw a mountain goat up close, and we managed to take a picture of a black bear from a distance.

My favorite part of Banff National Park is the town of Banff. Banff is a small town within the national park. It is a combination of contemporary construction with natural wilderness. This small town is nestled between mountains, yet it still has some of the most modern stores and restaurants. Like the rest of the national park, its main revenue comes from tourists, so most facilities in the town cater to tourists.

The small-town charm of the Banff is irresistible. The town is made for pedestrians. Almost everything within the town is a with-in walking distance of everything else, and you get a great view from almost anywhere within the town, rain or shine (when it rains, the mountains are covered in mist). The stores conveniently offer ski gear and winter wear galore.

The town of Banff is well known for its hot springs. They are naturally warmed by underground volcanic activity. In addition, a large section of the town is made up of hotels. There are many options for where to stay, as long as reservations aren't booked in the peak season. You can go to Banff in the peak season and still escape the crowd.

Banff is close to Lake Louise, a nearby town, where a clerk at the gift shop told us that in the winter, some of the hotels close to the lake are quiet and relatively empty. In addition, Banff has great food and shopping. The varieties of stores in the local mall range from a local drugstore to Gucci. There are also small boutiques that line almost all the streets.

The choice of restaurants is very diverse; we dined at Italian, Indian, and Greek restaurants. Although some aspects of staying in Banff may be pricey, it is well worth the time and money. If you don't have anything planned for your next vacation, I would recommend a trip to Banff, Canada.



[Daniel Iken]



[MCT Campus]

Letter to the editor

Dear Globe editors,

Being able to determine the value a high school athletic program has in a school's overall educational process is difficult at best and can be influenced greatly by individual experiences. I speak from experience when I say that for many high schools, *winning* plays the most important role in measuring the success of a team or program.

At Clayton, we are different and unique in our approach. With our "no-cut" policy at the under class levels, we recognize the importance of being part of a team and individual growth through participation. That policy does not legislate equal playing time, but it does mean that everyone will have the opportunity to earn that time.

With our approach to athletics, CHS is able to validate its concern for each individual that has the desire to play a sport. It troubles me when individual experiences on athletic teams have a negative outcome, and in reading the "Benchwarmer" article in the Oct. 24 "Globe," it is obvious that the writer's experience was not a good one.

Last year I spent many hours watching the team practice and play games, in addition to discussing team matters with Coach Ford and his staff. Through this interaction I am confident that every decision made by the coaching staff was made with the right intentions, to make the season a positive one for the team and each player, but

coaching is not an exact science, and it is clear that for at least one player, that was not the case. We must also remember that often decisions made for the good of the team are not what is best for individual players.

In order to clarify some of the statistics used in the article I must point out that the "bench warmer," according to team statistics, did play in 15 of 26 games for a total of approximately 75 minutes. Also, factors beyond the control of both the player and coaches did play a role in some of the games not played in. If we would judge the success of the season as most schools do, a 22-4 record would be a success, but as I stated earlier at Clayton we strive for more than victories. We value the learning that occurs through the experiences that present themselves along the way, the teachable moments that can not be duplicated in the classroom.

In closing I would hope that with time Kelly's memories from the season will soften and she will realize that dealing with some of the problems she was faced with have better prepared her for "life after basketball." For me and the rest of the CHS administration, we will learn from her opinions and continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs.

Sincerely,

Bob Bone
Athletic Director
Clayton High School

[Thumbs Up]

- Thanksgiving
- 4 day weekend
- end of daylight savings time
- early admission
- pumpkin pie



- dysfunctional toaster ovens
- cold weather arrived
- sneezing, coughing, sickness
- puffy eye circles/no sleep
- ubiquitous physics work
- the Rams' record

[Thumbs Down]



Legalization of drugs can help reduce crime

However strange and incomprehensible it seems to legalize all drugs, remember this: the goal of any drug policy is to reduce crime, addiction, death, and disease. I urge to legalize drugs to reduce harm to society.

The main concern Americans have with drug users is drug-induced violence and crime. However, the majority of violence can be attributed to drug prohibition, not drugs themselves. The prohibition allows gangs and drug cartels to exist. America has handed over one of the most lucrative markets to the most violent criminals.

"Guns like Uzis, AK47 assault rifles and AR15 semiautomatics are frequently bought (sometimes even legally in gun shops) by gangsters, who finance their high-tech arsenals with profits from the drug trade," University of California sociology professor Lewis Yablonsky said. Gang-related homicides have dramatically risen in the last few decades, in proportion to the dramatic rise of gangs.

Drug related violence goes hand in hand with the size of the black market. America spends \$70 billion per year in an attempt to control the market externally, since we are fundamentally excluded from internal control.

We destroy foreign crops, intercept shipments, jail traffickers and arrest possessors. Our interventions fail to harm the black market. In fact, drugs have increased in availability and potency, and decreased in street price since the 1970s. The fallacy in America's drug policy is our assumption that external control of a \$400 billion market could ever work.

Our policy of treating non-violent drug users as criminals has led to an increase in death, disease, crime and addiction. The drug prohibition has failed. Gangs are now established in every major city in America. Drugs travel unregulated within our country, posing a serious threat to our children and neighborhoods.

"Property crime rates have tripled and violent crimes have doubled since President Richard M. Nixon created the Drug Enforcement Agency in 1973 and declared an "all-out global war" to end the "drug menace." The connection is not coincidental," says Yale professor Steven B. Duke. We imprison at a rate 10 times higher than the Netherlands, where drugs are decriminalized. We arrest nearly one million per year for marijuana alone, 90 percent for simple possession. We let murderers and rapists out of our jails to make room for non-violent drug possessors. We spend more

for prisons than we do for our schools.

"Every friend of freedom must be as revolted as I am by the prospect of turning the U.S. into an armed camp, by the vision of jails filled with casual drug users and of an army of enforcers empowered to invade the liberty of citizens on slight evidence," said economics Nobelist Milton Friedman.

America has a history of failed drug prohibitions. In 1920, the national alcohol prohibition was put into effect. Supporters hoped the evils of alcohol would end. However, demand for alcohol did not cease, and supply was not far behind, as gangsters found that trafficking alcohol was a profitable business. Al Capone, the most notable gangster of the prohibition era, made a fortune through illegal alcohol sales. Wealthy gangs corrupted law enforcement agencies. Violence and crime increased. America's murder rate rose by 70 percent. Taxpayers paid millions to enforce the prohibition.

Repealing prohibition in 1933 eliminated the substantial profit margins available to the black market, destroying organized crime and Capone's empire. The murder rate re-stabilized to its pre-prohibition level.

Except for the repeal, America's current prohibition parallels the alcohol prohibition on the 1920s.

"Legalizing and regulating drugs is the only way to collapse the illegal drug market created by prohibition and to reclaim the market back from the gangsters," says Danny Kushlick, Director of Transform Drug Policy Foundation.

Legalizing, and treating drug use as a medical issue rather than a criminal issue has health benefits. Alcoholism and alcohol abuse are serious health issues, but with a policy of harm-reduction we maintain a safer society while maximizing social liberties.

Regulation of drugs that would occur after legalization would reduce the number of overdoses, adulterations, contaminations, dangerous substitutes and unknown strengths and mixtures. This would be similar to alcohol, where the state controls the manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of alcohol. Legalization would also reduce AIDS spread through intravenous drug use and drug-dependent prostitution. In Lisbon, Portugal AIDS cases decreased 51 percent since decriminalization of all

drugs in 2001.

Consumption of drugs in Lisbon has not risen since 2001, undermining the prohibitionist argument that legalization leads to significantly higher use of drugs. In fact, many places that have decriminalized or legalized drugs have experienced a decline in drug use. In the Netherlands, where marijuana has been legal since the 1970's, marijuana use is half the rate as in the US, according to the latest UN statistics on drug use.

Marijuana by itself is one of the safest pharmaceuticals known to man. Zero have ever died from the drug, in contrast to 120,000 alcohol and 400,000 tobacco related deaths per year in the United States alone.

The "gateway theory" of marijuana use leading to hard drug abuse, is used by prohibitionists to justify criminalization. However, The Drug Policy Research Network and numerous recent scientific studies refute the validity of this theory.

"In contrast to the US, where 16 percent of youthful marijuana users admit to having tried cocaine, only 1.8 percent of young Dutch marijuana users have tried cocaine. It appears that when the cannabis markets are effectively separated from those for harder drugs, marijuana is not a gateway drug, but a "terminus" one," says Paul Armentano, publications director for National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, also known as NORML. The prohibition is to blame for placing marijuana transactions on the streets, where hard drugs can easily be acquired from gangsters and criminals.

The "war on drugs" is rather a war on civil liberties. At both the state and individual level, freedoms are being compromised by America's policy of domestic terrorism. Criminalization at the federal level excludes the states from determining policy. States are supposed to be experimental labs of democracy, but enforced homogeneity ensures country-wide failure.

The full benefits of eradicating the black market can only be achieved when legalization is adopted on a grand scale, and states gain complete control over drug policy. Our current totalitarian drug control methods are ineffective, immoral, and unconstitutional. ☹



[Kevin Johnson]



Dakin Sloss runs around the track at the Center of Clayton. Sloss finds exercise and playing sports, as well as other extracurricular activities, helps him become a more relaxed and tranquil student.

Extracurricular activities lead to happiness

I am happy.

Too few people say and feel these three simple words too rarely. But why has our modern world of luxuries left so many discontented?

For me, there are a few simple essentials to finding happiness, and though the particulars are different for each individual, there are some common ways to reach joyfulness. I think that the first and most universal mistake that people make is failing to differentiate between the things that bring them bliss and pain.

To learn about my preferences and dislikes is a difficult and tedious process, but as I gain a better understanding of myself, I am generally happier. Throughout my life I have learned about myself, but during my final year of high school, as I prepare to leave my parents' home and enter the world, I think that I have grown even more.

As the summer concluded and the school year began, I played tennis nearly everyday. I had always enjoyed tennis, but it had never been a top priority alongside school. As I play more often, I find myself in a good mood more often. Perhaps it is the endorphins from exercise or simply the ecstasy that comes with working hard and improving.

Whatever the reason, dedicating myself wholeheartedly to tennis has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. At times I am extremely frustrated as I feel that my efforts are going nowhere, but sooner or later I see the fruits of my labor as I hit a more consistent backhand or a deeper second serve. I think that pushing the boundaries of my physical and mental strength on court has provided an irreplaceable joy.

I have also been working out every day in order to improve my tennis. It is remarkable how therapeutic running a few miles and lifting weights can be. By spending a mere hour exercising, and another hitting the tennis ball, I have attained a new level of satisfaction.

Adding a brief, yet consistent opportunity to exercise to my routine has provided stress relief and a sense

of accomplishment, as I get faster and stronger.

I cannot claim that my increased peacefulness has arrived through exercise alone. I also relish the chance as a senior to study subjects I actually find interesting. For the most part, I am only in classes I want to be in because I no longer have to fulfill graduation requirements.

Each day I have the opportunity to discuss philosophy and major literary works, learn complex mathematics, explore ancient history, analyze Spanish cinema and learn the fundamental laws that govern our world. Obviously, some days in every class are less than interesting; however, in general, I have found pleasure in the increased level of choice.

Another major enjoyable aspect of this year is the decreased level of stress. The push to get into college and the application process was overwhelming, but I have still found the overall atmosphere in my senior classes more relaxed. There seems to be less pressure to acquire every point possible as instead I put in as much effort as I want to get out in learning.

Finally, I have been spending more time on the extracurricular activities that I find enjoyable. I find Scholar Quiz, essentially a trivia competition, to be extremely exciting so I have been participating as much as possible. I try to make math club meetings, and I am playing badminton when I get the chance. As I have learned about myself, I have found these clubs and sports, including tennis, to be my favorite activities and thus I am spending as much time as I can in each.

In general, because I know more about myself than I did a few years ago, I have been using my 24 hours to do the things that I am passionate about. This is not to say that I always get to do what I prefer, but I would estimate that I am satisfied with at least half of how I spend my time. In the future, in order to be even happier, I hope to spend even more time the way I desire.

But if everyone just starts by finding a few interests to delve into, academic, athletic or extracurricular, then far more individuals will say "I am happy" far more often. ☹

EL CUATRO



[DAKIN SLOSS]

Librarians have loosened grip on rulebook

The library is no longer the police state that it once was. No dictators force students out for the smallest peep. No power hungry warlords scream at students sitting at tables of more than five students. No longer does a propel bottle filled of water constitute a "food or drink except for water." The mentality of the library and the librarians has drastically improved and the entire student population can feel that change.

I spend a lot of time in the library. I come to school for a first period class and a bunch of free periods in the morning after that. So naturally, since I am already up, I spend majority of the day sitting in the library working on homework. I need a relaxing, quiet and work-oriented environment where I am able to concentrate without the slightest distraction of noisy tables and loud conversations. Though I am unquestionably involved in one of those "loud conversations" at least a few times a day, I do now respect the librarians more because I see what they have to put up with. I see the atmosphere that the librarians are trying to create. I realize that I want that same quiet, easy to concentrate atmosphere.

Now, I am not a proponent of strict rules in the library but I do believe that the decrease in rules has led to a better environment. This year alone, I have been scolded for eating, talking or working on the "Card Catalog computer" at least a few times a week but my mindset when I am yelled at is somehow different. I am no longer angry with the librarians for enforcing the rules. I want a quiet environment when I am working on homework and recognize the fact that the library should be and needs to be like that throughout the day.

It's not the rules themselves that have changed. The

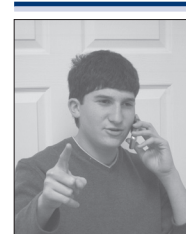
same library code is used and the majority of the librarians are the same. I feel that both the severity of the violation and enforcement of harmless actions has changed. The moment that a fifth person arrived at the table last year, a librarian was immediately on the case. Now, though they do sometimes come over and

say something, it is not until we are actually loud and annoying to other students that they do something. The library has continued to enforce the important policy though moving farther away from the hostile dictators that they once appeared to be.

The students have changed too. I have noticed too that with the decrease in harshness of policy, the students are not as rowdy as they once were. Students no longer are trying to simply tick off the librarians just for the sake of ticking them off. Last year, I noticed many students, including myself, who would be angry with the library and the librarians and react by simply trying to push the librarian's buttons.

They would sit at the table of five just to see if the librarians would react. They would bring in a bag of food and eat simply to test the librarians. They would start jabbering on about absolutely nothing or make outright animalistic grunts and noises just to see what the librarians would say. We are no longer the rude, impudent and outrageous students that we once were solely due to the fact that the librarians and the library itself has changed.

I enjoy being in the library now. I am not worried about being yelled at for the slightest infraction. I am able to work more freely in the library. I am no longer the citizen terrified of his autocratic ruler. I appreciate how much hard work the librarians do as well as their necessity to maintain control. ☹



[Phillip Levine]



Ugochi Onyema

Students study in the library. Librarians have less restrictive when dealing with the noise in the library as well as with students who spend their time in the facility socializing.

Dictatorship not always a negative form of government

Our world has seen numerous dictators. From Omar al-Bashir, who has killed hundreds of thousands while conducting genocide in Sudan to Robert Mugabe, who has single-handedly granted his country, Zimbabwe, the highest inflation rate in the world to the Saudi King Abdullah who has ensured his people live under conditions the rest of the world hasn't seen for centuries.

With all these people dominating international news, the word dictator has taken on a negative connotation. It has gotten to the point that all dictators are perceived as being malicious evil people who massacre their people. This may be true in some cases but not in the case of Pakistan.

Pakistan has been back and forth between democracies and dictatorships since its independence. Currently, under General Musharraf, Pakistan is currently a dictatorship. Musharraf has been in control

of Pakistan for the last eight years after he took power from democratically elected Nawaz Sharif. He has ruled as a dictator but unlike many others, he has not executed thousands of people or denied his people basic freedoms. Pakistan does not have a perfect government but is doing much better under Musharraf than it would under anyone else.

Musharraf has been put under so much pressure that he's already invited his arch rival, Benazir Bhutto, back into the country. She was prime minister of Pakistan twice and was forced both times to step down after being charged with corruption. Her husband was charged stealing millions of dollars from the state. She chose to leave the country over being arrested for these charges. Bhutto was and

still is the head of Pakistan's major opposition party, Pakistan People's Party. The preference is clear when you consider the main choices the Pakistanis have: a prime minister who cheats her own country or a dictator who has no major crimes accounted for.

Just because democracy works in the United States doesn't necessarily mean every country would be better as a democracy. A prerequisite to democracy is having an educated public. Pakistan has an overall literacy rate of 50 percent while 99 percent of Americans are literate.

Another main problem is that the outcome of democracy in Pakistan is unclear. President George Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza keep urging Musharraf to hold elections. But they don't understand what that would entail. The



[Sara Rangwala]

Strength beyond his years

Brian Lipsey, lifelong Clayton student, passed away on Nov. 13. Members of the Clayton community share their memories of him.

Reflection on Brian

Every person has that kid that they grew up with. For some people it's their best friends, for other their dire enemies. For me, it was Brian Lipsey.

I've tried to write about Brian many times in my life. But every time I start, my words grapple with themselves until they fall useless on the page.

You see, Brian started out as a giant force in my life. When Brian and I started out at Meramec in Kindergarten, we were both in Mrs. Dillon's class. I remember Brian from the start because we both sat at the same work table on the first day as our alphabetized fate would have us be. In our elementary school sociability, we got along pretty well. And, as girls are often wont to do, I took that as a signal of something more.

By the end of the first two weeks of school, I had sealed our marriage vows in a drawing of us encircled by a flamboyant red heart.

When I proposed, Brian turned me down. Despite my later attempts to force him to comply with my wishes for matrimony, he continually pushed me away. As any swain, I decided I would never talk to him again.

But life sometimes deals us the hand we would not like to be dealt—for the next six years of school, we were placed in the same class, every single year.

Though we had to tolerate one another, we were never nice. I'd tear his Pokemon cards, he'd tell our fourth grade substitute Mr. Corn I secretly called him Mr. Corny, I'd trip him in the hall, he'd make me spill my lunch tray, and so on, year after year after year.

It's hard for me to explain, but Brian, for a long time, was the continuity in my life. Though my friends moved in and away, my teachers changed, and I, myself changed, Brian was always there. And I was always complaining about him—to my parents, my teachers, my friends, anyone who would listen.

What really gets me though is that during all those years of wasted spite, I had not even taken into account why I was even mad in the first place. I held a senseless grudge for a stupid childlike act that now seems like a cute joke you rehash over at a high school reunion.

The last time Brian and I had class together was the year before he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Now, as a senior, I have the privilege of being able to look back on those childhood years and for the first time am able to see the things I missed in my idiotic, blind dislike. I am finally able to see the things I



Brian with fourth grade friends during lunch at Meramec Elementary School. Bottom from right: Brian Lipsey, Jacob Blumenfeld and Hyrum Shumway. Top from left: Robert Stevenson, Ben Mena, Ishmael Thomas, Daniel Waterbury and Ka Suen.

blocked out from my memories of Brian.

I remember Brian's turkey hands we made in first grade and our solar system projects in second grade. I remember his role in our pilgrim skit and I remember the way he stood up to all the mean substitutes in fourth grade. I remember his jokes in Mrs. Groom's music class and his aptitude for art. I remember his mischievous and full smile, the turtle-necks he wore all through the winter, the way his eyebrows raised when he was thinking of something funny he couldn't really say out loud. I remember how loyal he was to his friends and the pride he had in his family. I remember the "you can't make me" twinkle in his eyes.

My most vivid memory of Brian is of him in our fourth grade civil rights play as Martin Luther King. None of us thought he could pull it off—but he did, with gusto. To think of it, to watch the videotapes my parents' made of it, gives me chills.

I still remember Brian calling out those famous lines "I have a dream," so true but so distinctly his own. That image of Brian is one I will always have with me,

I will always remember Brian having a fun and positive attitude toward life. Every class I have had with him since Kindergarten he has provided the classroom with great energy and entertainment. And because of that, he was the kind of person you would want to be friends with and get to know. I'll always miss Brian for that.

-Senior David Luten

that strength; that unbridled strength of character and of voice. I always imagined Brian, with that 'fro he periodically had throughout elementary school, standing on a picket line somewhere fighting for what is good and right in this world.

I wish I could tell Brian now that we were just kids. I was just a stupid girl with a crush and a grudge.

But most of all, I wish I could tell Brian he was that kid I grew up with—that kid I associate my childhood with. But if I think about it, deeply and truly, Brian was actually that kid who forced me to grow up and into who I am today. With that trivial marriage proposal that spiraled into an uncontrollable grudge, I wish I could tell him he taught me never to be so naïve and stupid again.

Brian, wherever you are, you changed me. Your strength and courage continue to change me. In my heart, you will be there at our 25th class reunion, rehashing our Kindergarten folly, swirling our drinks and laughing it off as we talk of happier things.

-Senior Kelly Moffitt

Rest in peace, Brian. You will be missed greatly. You are so much stronger than many of us could ever imagine being and for that you will be forever remembered. You are a great person and I will never forget all the classes at Meramec and all the memories I had with you. You were a true hero and great friend.

-Senior Marta Toczylowski

Brian

Brian's eyes smiled. Really. Just subtle, especially when he knew what he was saying was wise. And he was wise. He knew, even in 8th grade, how the world worked. That life wasn't always fair, that not everyone was treated the way they should be.

Brian was part of 8 North when I was at Wydown, and then he was able to sit in with my creative writing class a few different times here at the high school. He could write. Really write. And he made it look easy. He could spin a yarn. I would sit down and talk about what we wanted to do for revision, about what he wanted to change. He usually liked it just the way it was. And I rarely argued. In 8th grade, when he had to miss a lot of school, he would walk back into class one day as if he hadn't been gone, pick up right in the middle with his school work and his friends. And here at CHS, I would see him between classes sometimes, after I hadn't seen him for a long time. "How are you doing, Ms. Sellenriek?" he'd say, and smile. Sometimes I'd answer, "I'm crazy busy," and his eyes would smile, "Yeah."

I've heard stories about Brian, silly stories, elementary high jinks that his old friends from Meramec can tell, but the Brian I know was mature in a lot of ways. Strong. Resilient. Quiet, but not silent.

-English teacher Jennifer Sellenriek

Brian could always find a way to lighten the mood and was friendly and funny. He had a good spirit and a good heart. He will be missed. Rest in peace.

-Senior Matt Katzman

Brian had intense trials from seventh grade on, and it never affected his friendliness.

-Senior Hyrum Shumway

Community Remembers

I will remember him as a tough kid, a kid that really fought, and a kid that was really really resistant, and ultimately was mature. He understood the situation, he understood what the doctors said, but he remained resilient.

-History teacher Paul Hoelscher

Media violence dehumanizes, society's reactions dwindle

I am probably one of few teenagers who will admit to spending a night in a movie theater with their mothers.

But there I sat on Nov. 8, with a chocolate-covered Oreo in one hand and popcorn in the other watching "American Gangster" with Mom. I wish I could tell you that I was drawn to the action thriller by the great reviews or by the thrilling plot line, but no it was Denzel Washington's charismatic smile that led to the purchase of my movie ticket.

Unfortunately, I didn't see much of it because I spent most of the movie burying my head in my mom's shoulder or peaking between my fingers. When the movie ended, I acted cool as if, I secretly enjoyed the two hours and 51 minutes of drugs, shooting, guns and death. I believed that I had a certain façade to maintain, even with my mom.

But as we walked back in the dark to our car, I couldn't help but have the scenes of the horrific character of Frank Lucas, shooting and abusing characters, flash through my mind. I don't care how cute Washington's smile was; I could not accept him in this

role. I know there's a lot of chatter out there about how violent movies and video games lead to more violence, but that's not what scares me.

At 18, I am perfectly capable of distinguishing fiction from real life. What scared me was that as I looked at my fellow moviegoers leave the theater; I seemed to be the only one disturbed by what I had just seen.

Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]

Has our society really come to the point where watching someone get shot is no longer sad? I know. I know. It's not real. Denzel

Washington was just playing a character. Next month he could be in a movie starring as an animated cow or a teacher, but he was representing someone real.

By letting ourselves become desensitized to murder, shooting and death, we are doing ourselves a great disservice.

Has our society really come to the point where watching someone get shot is no longer sad?

[Katharine Weiss]
Senior Managing Editor

I will always remember my first encounter with violence on TV. I was 8 years old and I was watching an episode of "Seventh Heaven."

Normally I could depend on Seventh Heaven to give me good wholesome insight on life, but this particular episode was different. In the episode, an angry friend of one of the Camden kids, comes to Reverend Camden's church and shoots him. I remember screaming when I first saw this episode and as I watched this character that I'd come to love, lie on the floor bleeding, I began to well up. While this is an over the top reaction to a shooting on TV, there is something very real about it. I was seeing something happen that I knew had happened to families and people around the world. I wasn't crying for the character of Reverend Camden, but for the families who had, experienced violence in their own lives.

Now as I grow older, I encounter violence on TV and in movies way more, only now it is rare that I am

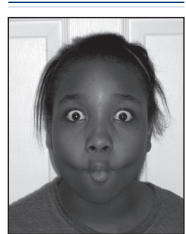
able to muster any emotion, let alone sadness. I wish that I was able to conjure up the same emotion I once felt watching "Seventh Heaven," but it has come to the point where I encounter so much violence on TV and movies that it is no longer sad, just a fact. I don't want it to be a fact. It wasn't until I saw "American Gangster" that I was reminded of the horror that can be accompanied with a shooting. I am not sure why it took a three-hour movie to remind me of this fact.

Maybe it is because death was such a predominant theme in the movie, maybe it is because it seemed as if every other scene had a shooting in it, or maybe it's because as I sat next to my mom watching the movie, I was reminded of those who had lost their own mothers to the same violence I was using as entertainment.

I suppose it is nearly impossible to avoid violence, if you're not getting it on your TV or at the theaters, it's in the newspapers. I am not saying to give up action films, but instead to realize that each gunshot represents someone's life and this should not be taken lightly. I don't want to lose the emotion I feel when I see someone get shot. I want to always cover my eyes and bury my head into my mom's shoulder when someone is being killed. Even if that means missing Denzel's smile. ☹

Despite some flaws, people should leave Britney alone

Ever since Britney Spears' marriage to Kevin Federline in 2004, Britney's reputation has spiraled downward. Although an annulment has recently occurred, it seems as if Britney's status has indisputably degraded from one of a dominating pop princess to one of tabloid trash. I must admit that I find it heartbreaking to witness the abandonment of our generation's loyalties from the one to whom we owe the pop era. I recognize the fact that many wouldn't consider some of Britney's accomplishments significant, such as popularizing low riding jeans and crimped hair. However, in truth, most of us owe much of our elementary and even middle school style to the direct influence of Britney Spears.



[Fontasha Powell]

Particularly, when I first watched Chris Crocker's infamous, authentic performance on youtube.com, I couldn't help but laugh hysterically. However, one needs to look past the image of the sobbing boy wearing eyeliner, and listen to what he's actually saying.

Quintessentially, Crocker asserts many strong opinions, his most potent being: "Since when is it professional to publicly bash someone that's going through a hard time?"

Crocker's assertions of publicity bashing are surprisingly accurate. For example, when I get online, inglorious news concerning Britney plagues the media. How would you like it if the media divulged and exploited every detail of your

private life during a time as fragile as divorce? The past few months in particular, the reports about her continue to grow more futile. Is our personal well being directly affected if Britney chooses to walk barefoot or shave her head? Although some acts she's committed have not been ideal, I think that it's safe to say that she definitely deserves a break from all of the negative media hype.

I remember when Britney first burst onto the music scene when I was only in third grade. Her angelic face, lively outfits and sappy songs were all the rage. In fact, my best friend and I practiced almost everyday for 2 weeks for our performance of "You Drive Me Crazy" in the Glenridge talent show. Furthermore, Britney almost single-handedly made low riding jeans, belly baring shirts and

crimped hair all the rage during the pop era.

Britney's four-year relationship with N'Sync member Justin Timberlake caused her popularity to elevate her to the status of Hollywood's sweetheart around 2002. Even after media coverage about her 55-hour marriage and staged kiss with Madonna, Britney's true fans remained loyal and continued supporting her through the release of one of her more controversial albums, "Toxic".

The recent release of her album "Blackout", and the popular single "Gimme More" hasn't won over many fans as I thought it would. In fact, I think that the music video of "Gimme More", which many consider raunchy, is one of the classic reasons why we love Britney Spears: her dance moves and style are uniquely intriguing, her songs direct and relatable and her personality is quite uninhibited.

I think that it's safe to say that she definitely deserves a break from all of the negative media hype.

[Fontasha Powell]
Editor

Still, can't we cut Britney a little

slack? She's practically a living legend, selling over 84 million records and being the first female artist in history to ever have her debut album and single be #1 at the same time. In closing, we must remember that through the façade of glitter and gold that permeates Hollywood, there exist actual human beings with problems and feelings. Can't we all sympathize with the plight of Britney Spears? As humans, we all go through trying times. Just as celebrities have high points, they also have low points. It's just not principled for us as society to point out their flaws and judge them. Britney's a talented woman whose fame has indirectly influenced virtually every child born in the 90s. In the famed shrieks of Crocker, "Just leave Britney Alone, okay? And if you don't you'll just have to deal with me!" ☹

MEDIKA MAMBA

Patricia Wolff, founder of Meds & Food for Kids, has made it her personal mission to provide for the malnourished people of Haiti by supplying them with ready-to-use therapeutic food, which she calls Medika Mamba.

[Leah Eby]
Editor

As a country in which the typical daily income per family is \$2, only 15 percent of children ages six through 11 are in public school, 80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and approximately half of the population is malnourished, the island of Haiti is in serious need of help.

Dr. Patricia Wolff, a pediatrician in private practice and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine has made it her mission to aid the people of Haiti. In 2004, she founded Meds & Food for Kids (MFK), a non-profit organization that has made its mission "to save the lives of children dying of malnutrition and other diseases in Haiti."

Wolff's journey to becoming a doctor began in grade school in a suburb of St. Paul, MN. As the oldest of 13 kids, her mother never attended college, while her father attended, yet never graduated.

"I went to a Catholic grade school where we were told all the time how lucky we were to not be living in a lot of places in the world," Wolff said. "At that time it was China. We would send money overseas for the babies in China and hear stories about how terrible the situations were for people. So, early on in my life, I decided that I should be a doctor, because you could be a scientist, a social worker, a psychologist, and a doctor, kind of all wrapped up. And that's what I decided to do."

While Wolff was in medical school, she also married. She had always been interested in humanitarian and medical efforts in developing countries, but between medical training, raising children and work, it was difficult to find an opportunity.

FIRST TRIP TO HAITI

When her children were 11 and 14 years old, she took her family to Haiti on a volunteer trip. In the capital, Port-au-Prince, they boarded in an orphanage and worked in Mother Teresa's Home for Dying Children and Adults. The experience, Wolff said, was mind-blowing.

"I just thought it was another planet," Wolff said. "Like a nightmare planet. I felt really bad for the people, but they were very habituated to it. They didn't feel as bad for themselves as I felt for them. They're really strong people. I think all the weak ones are long dead. I think, in a Darwinian way, they've been whittled down to these really tough people."

Despite the emotionally tough aspects of Haitians, it is certain that the quality of life in Haiti is nowhere near that of other countries. During her trip, Wolff was able to observe some of the most dreadful aspects of human nature.

"There were dead bodies on the street and people walked over them instead of picking them up because they were political killings and they didn't really want to be associated with them," Wolff said. "Mother Teresa's Home for Dying Children and Adults was filled with people who would have been cured in the United States. If only they had operations and medicine. It was quite a heart-wrenching experience."

Also during this trip, Wolff traveled by horse with a mobile clinic to a village on a mountain. Wolff, in addition to another doctor and nurse, spent three days on the mountain examining patients. About 300 Haitians would seek their medical attention each day.

While on the mountain, Wolff stayed with a family consisting of a mother, father and about seven or eight kids, all of whom had scabies, a microscopic mite that infests the skin. In their home, there was no bathroom and very little food.

"Every morning the mother got up really early and cooked food, and I was supposed to eat first as the honored guest," Wolff said. "Then her and her husband ate, and if there was anything left, the kids could have it. They were all standing around, looking at me with really big eyes, really hungry, red hair and bloated bellies. After that, I came home and I could never really get it out of my head. It's sort of like you're a witness to violence and you kind of own it. You should do something about it."

BEGINNING OF CLINIC WORK

This overwhelming and shocking experience prompted Wolff to return to Haiti time after time as a pediatrician in a village clinic. She began by returning once a year, then twice, then three times and then four times, until she could hardly stay away. She now rotates between St. Louis and Haiti, traveling to Haiti for three weeks and then returning to the States for three weeks.

As a pediatrician in the local clinic, Wolff treated Haitian children with amoxicillin and therapy for their typhoid or malaria, but this never made a great difference in the health of the children. The real reason they were sick, Wolff said, was that they were malnourished.

The most likely children to become malnourished are those no longer being breastfed, but not yet old enough to fight or forage for food. These toddlers, between the ages of about 12 months to four years, are constantly in danger of malnutrition. Wolff and her colleagues would give the children rice, beans and corn, but it never made much of a difference.

Due to her growing interest in international medicine, Wolff took a year sabbatical and traveled the world, volunteering in various countries including Uganda, Malawi, Cambodia, Nicaragua and Haiti.

HELP FOR MALNOURISHMENT

In Malawi, Wolff met with Dr. Mark Manary, a Professor of Pediatrics at WashU, and observed his techniques in developing ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). This formula, composed of peanuts, powdered milk, sugar, oil, vitamins and minerals, does not require cooking or refrigeration, and does not grow bacteria.

RUTF has recently gained popularity within the medical world. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have announced that this is the quickly becoming the gold standard way of treating malnutrition across the world.

Studies have shown that the formula produces very positive results in terms of rehabilitating malnourished people, so Wolff decided to establish the technique in Haiti.

When she returned to Haiti, Wolff teamed up with Dumel Louis, a Haitian who had worked as her interpreter for years. Louis, a self-made man and one of the few members of the small middle class, had put himself through school by working small jobs in many different fields. With an intimate knowledge of Haitian life, as well as knowledge of many practical fields, Louis helped Wolff begin her mission.

"So I said, 'You know, we need to figure out how to grind things together, so let's go down to the street and figure out what kinds of grinders they have,'" Wolff said. "So we got ourselves a little grinder, we got some peanuts, sugar, oil, and threw it all together, and we sort of began to figure out how we would do this."

MEDIKA MAMBA

After some experimentation, Wolff and her team received an International Rotary Grant for \$11,000 to start the production

of the formula, now called Medika Mamba, in a small Haitian church. Since then, the makeshift factory has been relocated from the church to a woman's house, to a tiny place in downtown Cap-Haitien, to a bigger house, to where it now functions in an even larger house.

Wherever the factory may be, Wolff and her team are guaranteed only about two hours of electricity per week from the solar grid. The factory is equipped with a generator to ensure electricity, a well to provide water and a septic tank is used due to the lack of a sewer system.

MFK buys the peanuts used in its RUTF locally from Haitian farmers. However, the process of acquiring safe peanuts is very systematic and specific. If the peanuts are not bought within three days of the harvest and they go to the market instead, they are contaminated with mold and aflatoxin, a toxin produced by a fungus. For this reason, Wolff's team mentors the farmers on safe practices of harvesting peanuts to insure the safety of their product.

Once the peanuts are in the hands of MFK staff, they are taken to a storeroom equipped with a dehumidifier and a fan, in order to keep the temperature controlled. The MFK factory has the only aflatoxin testing in Haiti, and therefore, the only aflatoxin-free peanuts in the country.

A TYPICAL DAY IN HAITI

Each morning in Haiti, Wolff is awakened by the bright sun shining in her eyes at about 6 a.m., a time considered late by most Haitians who wake up around 5 a.m. If there is electricity left in the generator batteries, Wolff will make some coffee and oatmeal, and access the internet to answer the approximately 100 emails she receives each day.

The factory workers and manager, Louis, come about 7:30 a.m. to begin work. Work consists of deshelling, roasting and grinding peanuts, and mixing

the milk, sugar, oil, vitamins and minerals with the peanuts to make the final formula.

About two days a week, Wolff participates in the mobile clinic. There, she records the heights and weights of patients, distributes Medika Mamba and other medicines and educates others on health.

Wolff often has meetings with public hospitals

and directors of public health to discuss the Medika Mamba program. She and her team also run errands to buy peanuts, talk to farmers about their crops, pick up packages at the airport, get clean water and purchase milk, sugar, oil and other ingredients for the formula.

peanuts, developing the ability to have a business and developing the capacity of the public clinic to treat malnutrition."

MFK provides 2,000 kilograms of Medika Mamba per month, either through a mobile clinic or through an established one, but never through a government clinic or the government hospital. This is because, according to Wolff, the country's government has always been difficult to work with.

HAITI'S HISTORY

Since the end of France's colonization of Haiti, the country has been unstable. Throughout its 203-year history, the country has experienced three military coups and had 20 constitutions.

During the time of French rule, a major portion of the gross national product of France was generated by Haiti's sugarcane. The French had slaves imported from Africa, and they were worked to death. Numerous slaves ultimately escaped to the mountains and began a guerrilla war.

From 1790 to 1804, it was an extremely bloody time in Haitian history. Haiti declared independence from France and killed all the Frenchmen. However, this new, independent country did not

have diplomatic relations with others. Many countries continued to support the slave trade and were worried that a slave revolution could be exported to their country, and therefore refused to trade. France offered the Haitians trade in exchange for the payment of reparations for the loss of their colony. Haiti paid these reparations to France, which drained the treasury. It became an extremely poor country and remains so even today.

Now, René Préval is the democratically-elected president of Haiti. According to Wolff, "he is a benign, caretaker president, which is probably what they needed after the rebellion under Jean-Bertrand Aristide." In addition, the donor nations, such as the United States and various European countries, had cut connections with Haiti during the rule of Aristide, and have slowly been returning to aid the country.

"There are more programs," Wolff said. "The Italians are building a road. There are more malnutrition programs, more HIV/AIDS programs, more TB programs...Since the UN has been there for about three and a half years, there are fewer kidnappings and less crime in Port-au-Prince. I think everything is kind of settling down."

As a result of their country's tumultuous past, Haitians are forced to suffer a life of disease, death and poverty.

"It's not fair," Wolff said. "I don't know why it is the way it is. I don't know what the answer is. Why do some souls come down the chute and land in the United States of America and have the opportunity for a long, healthy life, education, comfort and entertainment? And why do other people come down the chute in a place where you can't keep your kids alive, and you can't leave?"

THE DIFFICULT HAITIAN LIFE

The choices Haitians are forced to make each day are unbelievably difficult. Women often don't use birth control because the child mortality rate is so high, and they cannot be sure if they will end up with any kids. If one child looks sickly, the parent must choose whether to use the meager resources to feed her other children and let the sick child die, or to take the sick child to the hospital for a month, leaving the other children at home, and hope that the others are not dead when they return.

The arduous lives of Haitians are the subject of Wolff's mission. To save their lives and their spirits, and to simply help in whatever way possible, is what Wolff hopes to achieve with her work.

"I think it's better to be able to do something about it that to just be a witness to it," Wolff said. "You can make a huge impact by doing really simple things." ☺



Wolff provides ready-to-use therapeutic food, which has become the standard method of treating malnutrition across the world, to children in Haiti. RUTF is made from peanuts, powdered milk, sugar, oil, vitamins and minerals.



Wolff's non-profit organization Meds & Food for Kids provides 2,000 kilograms Medika Mamba per month in Haiti.



An MFK staff member helps to prepare the peanuts for the production of Medika Mamba. The MFK factory is the only place in Haiti that provides aflatoxin-free peanuts.

go home...but that's what people have been doing forever in Haiti, and the reason they do it is because it's easy. It's not easy to do anything in Haiti."

THE FUTURE FOR HAITI

Future work in Haiti for Wolff includes a partnership with the second-largest public hospital in the country and a rural clinic called Camp Louis to provide malnutrition treatment for 3,000 to 4,000 chil-

[ourview]



staff playlist

1. "Under Pressure" Queen
2. "Penny Lane" The Beatles
3. "MMMBop" Hanson
4. "Swallowed in the Sea" Coldplay
5. "Wats ur Name" Nelly
6. "Falling" Ben Kweller

Top Three...

Harry Potter Characters

Lord Voldemort

Hagrid

Weasley twins



will-i-waw noun

1. a sudden violent gust of cold land air common along mountainous coasts of high latitudes or a sudden violent wind
2. a violent commotion

COUNTDOWN until graduation... 190 days

What you didn't know....

Kimchi is a Korean dish consisting of fermented vegetables, most often cabbage, and a variety of spices to add flavor to the ingredients.

website of the month

www.squidoo.com/webproxy

An internet site that lists proxy sites to bypass servers that block websites such as Facebook and MySpace.



Boys' soccer scores district victory

[Fontasha Powell] Editor

Although the varsity boys' soccer Hounds lost 0-2 to Cape Notre Dame in the state quarterfinals, the advancement to the state rounds is considered to be quite a feat in Clayton history. In fact, this year's varsity soccer team has had the strongest playoffs since 2000, winning the district championship with a combined shutout of 14-0 among 3 games.

Senior co-captain Parker Rawdon believes that on the whole, the soccer season was extremely successful. Throughout the season, Rawdon scored 17 goals and had 23 assists.

"Overall, I'd say the soccer season was successful because winning districts and going to quarterfinals was a big deal," Rawdon said. "In Clayton's history, only four other teams have done that. At the same time, we were able to have lots of team chemistry and fun."

For most players, winning the district championship was accompanied with intense emotion and adrenaline. The Hounds won 2-0 against Lutheran South with goals scored by Kevin Matheny and Joe Speck. Senior defensive marking back Steven Glynias felt that winning districts was one of the proudest moments in his soccer career. During the season, Glynias scored 3 goals and had one assist.

"I realized that we could possibly win districts with about 15 minutes left in the game," Glynias said. "When Kevin scored, the 2-0 lead made me feel relieved. After the game ended, the feeling was amazing because we knew that we were the fifth team in Clayton history to ever win districts. When my mom gave down on the field to give me a hug, she said that was extremely proud of me. It was her last game at Gay as a parent of a player, because I'm the last of 5 children to play sports at CHS. That definitely meant a lot to me."

Similarly, senior wing-midfield David Luten also felt that winning districts was extremely satisfying. In the season, Luten scored 3 goals and had 5 assists.

"Winning districts was a great



Clockwise from above: senior Max Arpadi, junior David Schlessman and senior David Luten battle for ball. Upper right: co-captain Scott Belsky takes goal kick. Right: Schlessman, senior Steven Glynias and Belsky play defense. Lower right: co-captain David Sherby, Schlessman, freshman Bo Hayden, Kevin Matheny and Will Hayes. Lower Left: Glynias and Hayden settle high ball.

end to my high school career," Luten said. "Being noted as one of the better Clayton soccer teams makes me feel good about my years of high school soccer. I'll never forget winning that trophy."

Rawdon also believes that winning districts was an accomplishment, therefore deeming the overall season to be a success.

After winning districts, the Hounds advanced to the next round, the state quarterfinals. Although the hounds lost 0-2 to Cape Notre Dame, defending state champions, Luten thinks that the team put forth an enormous amount of effort and took the game seriously.

"The 5 days between districts and state quarterfinals were full of anticipation," Luten said. "That whole day at school, no one could really concentrate. At quarterfinals, the atmosphere was very focused and serious. Even though we lost, the game was really intense, and everyone played their hearts out."

The Clayton soccer philosophy, motivated by the underlying goal to "do work," has proven to be suc-

cessful.

Sophomore goalie Jack Harned thinks that the energy put worth by the players also contributed to the successful playoffs. During the season, Harned had 131 saves and 7 shutouts.

"We worked 110 percent in practice and during games, and that prepared us for our district victory," Harned said.

Glynias believes that coming into districts, everyone on the team took on significant responsibility.

"As we went into districts, we all realized that we had a lot of seniors on the team who wanted nothing less than the championship," Glynias said. "We passed well and lots of individual players, like Joe Speck, were influential and stepped up their game."

Coach Matt Balossi has been coaching soccer at CHS for 4 years, and decided to make the season schedule tougher than it had been in previous years.

"I think the biggest thing I did was to make the schedule increasingly harder every year," Balossi said. "There seemed to be an odd sense of relief once the regular season ended this year. It was as if we were finally ready and battle-tested for the playoffs. The schedule is not going to change much next year, so hopefully it'll work again."

In addition to playing a more aggressive schedule, some players think that having freshmen on the team was a challenge in the beginning.

Harned thought the freshmen would give the team more inexperience, however he found his con-



Matt Katzman



Matt Katzman

the team struggled most with finding ways to win big games.

"A lot of times we would be close to scoring in big games, but what separated us from the other teams was that when got chances to score, we didn't," Glynias said. "We definitely had trouble stepping up to make big plays when they were needed."

Many players consider the tough schedule one of the low points of the season, because the hounds ultimately finished with a losing record of 11-14-2. Equally, Luten believes that one of the lowest points in the season was never having a solid winning streak.

"In the beginning of the season we were losing a lot of games and it was pretty frustrating," Luten said. "Looking at the statistics, we only saw that we had losses. That got a lot of us all pretty down."

Balossi cannot pinpoint a specific low point in the season, but believes that some of the lowest points are due to the specific losses to Trinity, Westminster and Parkway West.

"Personally the loss to Trinity was the hardest to swallow," Balossi said. "It was the first time we had played them since we lost to them in double overtime in the district final two years ago. I was hoping for some revenge, but it wasn't a very good game for us. I think some of the players might consider the loss to Ladue the most demoralizing, because they are such big rivals and we lost at home."

Glynias, however, believes that the most disappointing loss of the season was the 1-2 loss to Parkway West.

"Coming out of a series of losses, we expected to beat Parkway West," Glynias said. "In the end, they scored a weak goal, which gave them the lead. Losing that game made us realize that we needed to step it up."

In contrast, Glynias too believes that playing harder competition during the regular season enabled the team to be more successful during playoffs.

"We knew that coming into the season, we would have a difficult schedule," Glynias said. "He welcomed the fact that we'd have to play tough games and have tough losses. Overall, I think that it allowed us to become a better team because we had to work through our mistakes rather than beating up on bad teams." Soccer, 16

Girl's tennis duo improves upon previous state result

[Ugochi Onyema] Editor

Girls' tennis at Clayton has been steadily gaining attention through because of sheer talent and skill. No one knows this better than sophomore Katharine Greenberg and senior Drew Lefkowitz, a duo of athletes who have advanced to state-level tournaments twice during their high school careers. On Oct. 18, Lefkowitz and Greenberg went to Springfield to compete in the state tournament, and returned later in the weekend placed sixth in the state for Class 1 Doubles. Last year, the doubles team advanced to the state tournament's first round for Class 1 Doubles, and lost to the doubles team from The Barstow School in Kansas City. Although they lost this match, Greenberg and Lefkowitz defeated Forsyth High School doubles' team in the consolation first round. This year, Greenberg and Lefkowitz made significant strides in the state tournament. The team won three matches and lost two. The teams that Lefkowitz and Greenberg defeated come from Dexter High School, Marshall High School and Bolivar High School. The tournament places teams in a very specific way.

"Across the state, there are different districts," Lefkowitz said. "There are two doubles teams from each school who compete in districts, and the top two teams in each district go to state. The tournament uses double elimination, so each team have to lose twice in order to be eliminated."

There are 32 teams total that compete in districts—16 for schools with larger populations, and 16 for schools with smaller populations

According to Lefkowitz, there was a lot of effort that went into preparing for state.

"We had practice every week, and we would play against teammates," Lefkowitz. "We also did drills to help us play as a team, basically those are the two things that we did to prepare for state."

Lefkowitz has tennis in her blood, as both of her parents are avid tennis players, which fuels her passion for tennis.

"I started playing when I was about 3, with my mom, but I stopped playing between sixth and tenth grade because, so I have the tennis background, because both of my parents played, but I did take four years off," Lefkowitz said.

Greenberg also began playing tennis at a young age.

"Ever since I was little, I just hit with my parents, but within the last five years, I have been playing a lot more," Greenberg said.

Lefkowitz feels fortunate to have Greenberg as a partner and depended on her to raise her spirits whenever she was too hard on herself.

"Katherine was a really good partner throughout this season because we work really well together, and she pumps me up when I am down," Lefkowitz. "We have a good time together when we are on the court."

Greenberg also thinks of Lefkowitz as both a partner and a support system.

"Both of us are really intense about tennis, so whenever one of us was upset, it was really easy to make each other feel better," Greenberg said. "Our partnership worked out really well."

Greenberg thinks that their partnership as well as their determination paid off in the end.

"I was really happy with what we did," Greenberg said. "We were one step closer at state than we were last year." ☺



Senior Drew Lefkowitz and sophomore Katherine Greenberg pose after achieving a sixth place result in Class 1 Doubles for tennis, following up last year's appearance.

Soccer season successful

Soccer, 15

Luten believes that the game against Cape Notre Dame played during the regular season was a pivotal game for the soccer hounds. Although the hounds lost 0-1 in double overtime, Luten thinks that the effort exerted against the defending state champions was amazing.

"At Cape Notre Dame we played our hearts out and saw how well we could play against such good opponents," Luten said. "Once we saw that we almost beat them, our whole attitude changed and we figured that we could beat any other team that we faced."

In addition to providing a more aggressive schedule, the players think that the attitude of the coaches also contributed to the success in playoffs.

"Our coaches were great," Luten said. "They believed in us the whole season. They told us in the beginning that we'd have a tough schedule, but just as long as we were playing good soccer, we'd be set for the playoffs and could even make a state run."

Harned also believes that the coaches were extremely loyal and dependable.

"The coaches showed immense passion for our team and defended us when we were fouled, worked us hard in practice, and made the experience a fun one," Harned said. "They did an excellent job."

Balossi attributes much of the team's achievement to the assistant varsity coach, Rick Kron, who mostly works with the goalkeepers, Harned and Michael Durkin.

"Rick has understanding of team defense," Balossi said. "In addition, he is an instantaneous source of motivation, determination and intimidation."

Furthermore, Balossi believes that the accomplishments of the team can be credited to strong senior leadership, especially by senior

co-captains Scott Belsky, Rawdon and David Sherby. Rawdon said that as a co-captain, effective leadership was accredited to being supportive of the whole team.

"I put all my focus into the season," Rawdon said. "I always tried my hardest and tried to lead by example."

"Winning districts felt great," Balossi said. "I was really hoping, for the seniors, that we could pull that game out, particularly since we had such a grueling schedule and they were incredibly optimistic, earnest and hard working throughout it all. They never quit. The senior leadership on this team simply never quit, they had outstanding character all season long."

Particularly, many will miss the soccer season, and they owe many of their good varsity memories to the leadership of the seniors.

Luten said that would miss being around his fellow teammates.

"We were a really fun group led by a group of 3 good captains," Luten said. "Practices were fun and we bonded and became friends, on and off the field."

Harned agrees that he will miss the important senior guidance as well.

"I will definitely miss the leadership and influence the seniors had on me," Harned said. "They did an excellent job of carrying our team throughout the whole season."

[Jack Harned]
Sophomore

I will definitely miss the leadership and influence the seniors had on me.

Similar to Harned, Balossi agrees that the senior players from this season were a unique group of guys.

"Of course, it is going to be weird to coach a soccer team at CHS without Scott Belsky, David Sherby, and Parker Rawdon on it - they have been on every team I have coached here," Balossi said. "I don't think I will really know what that is like until we start and they are not there. But even beyond those three guys I will miss coaching all of the seniors from this sea-

son, they were an incredibly coachable and fun group that was always ready to compete."

Although not completely composed of seniors, Glynias, Harned, Sherby, Rawdon, and Belsky emerged as admired players among their teammates.

Harned said that he admires Glynias because of Glynias' defensive efforts.

"I especially appreciated Steven, because I'm a goalie and I respect my defenders," Harned said. "Steven left it on the field at every game and he gave me rides after practice."

Rawdon respects Harned, Belsky and Sherby because they all proved to be infallible.

"I admire Jack because as a sophomore, it's really hard to come into goalie, one of our most important positions," Rawdon said. "I respect Scott because as senior, he had to make the adjustment of moving from center midfield to defensive, and I respect David because he was injured and he played through it."

Luten holds Rawdon in high esteem because Rawdon was their offensive weapon. He scored most of the team goals and had some of the highest point totals for a Clayton soccer player.

"There were some games when Parker had to carry the team on his back and he did," Luten said. "He really set the tone for our offense, and I appreciated how he worked hard, got the ball and scored."

Balossi further emphasizes that he will not miss the seniors exclusively, but all the fun that was had this season.

"We had intense, but really fun practices and some guys with really great, and sometimes gross, senses of humor," Balossi said. "We also scored some beautiful goals, suffered heartbreaking losses, and enjoyed and celebrated an historic win. This season had it all."

Glynias says that he will miss the familiarity and friends associated with Clayton soccer.

"I will miss playing with guys that I've played with my whole life-guys like John Hopfinger, who I've played on a team with since Kindergarten," Glynias said. "I'll miss competitive Clayton soccer in



The Clayton soccer team celebrates after winning a regular-season game.



Freshman Kevin Matheny and senior Parker Rawdon fight for possession of the ball.



Max Arpadi kicks the ball down the field during the game against Whitfield.

general, and playing rivalry games like Ladue and MICDS."

Additionally, the varsity boys' soccer team believed that the Clayton student body was extremely supportive.

Glynias believes that although in the past, the student body has not realized the tremendous impact its support has on the team, this year, students have been more supportive by attending games.

"When fans attend games, especially ones like Ladue and districts, it means something to every single player," Glynias said. "At the quarterfinals, I saw almost 150 fans, some of them dressed up, and it was awesome to have that kind

of support."

Harned too believes that large crowds raise the energy of the team.

"Although at some games there was a very small turnout, at our big games, like in our district final game, we had huge fan support and it gave everyone a lift," Harned said. "It propelled us through the game and we all appreciated it."

Balossi believes that for next years varsity boys team to be achieve, devotion and a strong will is necessary.

"Next years team will need to match and even try to exceed the effort and commitment that this year's team has displayed," Balossi

said.

Rawdon thinks that the same methods employed this year should be used next year in order to ensure success.

"Keep working hard, have strong leadership and leave it all on the field," Rawdon said

Glynias also offers his advice to the varsity players of next fall by advising them to cultivate the pre-existing young talent.

"Between the returning juniors, freshmen and goalie, next years team will have many strong points," Glynias said. "Work together and cherish every game because once the season is over, you won't get it back." ☺

Strategies for dealing with losses advantageous

[Ellie Bullard]
Editor

Often in sports, a coach's aptitude is measured by their team's win and loss record. However, a large part of a coach's job is to keep the team going after tough losses, to motivate the team and to help the team get better.

After a tough loss, many coaches will try to decide what the team needs to improve upon.

"We always talk as a team about what worked and what did not work," Varsity field hockey coach Lizzy Dooley said. "Then the coaches sit down and collaborate on what we can do in practice to focus on what our weakness are, and how to fix it."

Coaches also try to decrease their focus on the loss after a tough game.

"[I] try to stay objective— [which is] often difficult

right after the game with emotions and frustrations running high," Varsity baseball coach Craig Sucher said. "I purposely say little after the game to avoid 'heat of the moment' mistakes. Our single goal for our program is to get better every day so I usually try to immediately focus the players on the importance of the next day to target and improve on mistakes."

Focusing on the positive achievements and strengths of the players is another strategy that coaches use to stay optimistic after a difficult loss.

"We use our strengths to overcome our weaknesses," Dooley said. "Team talks with the girls get us re-focused—[it's] where all the girls give each other feedback on how they are feeling as a team, and we set goals as a team and as individuals."

There were many hard losses for the field hockey team this year; the private schools, this year, were especially hard to play.

"It is always tough to lose to the private schools," Dooley said. "Villa, JBS, MICDS...We tied Ladue this year after sudden death OT and strokes—that was a little hard on us too."

We recover because we are a team. If we go out and leave everything on the field, and walk away with no regrets—then it does not matter what the outcome really is."

Any and all losses, however, cause frustration among players and coaches.

"All losses are tough to take—not because winning is the most important thing—but because there is so much physical sacrifice, sacrifice of time away from family, and effort in general—when things don't go well, it's very frustrating," Sucher said. "There are many things in all sports that are out of the control of players and coaches but I think it's even more true in baseball. I think there is a tendency, especially in frus-

trating times, to try to do too much to attempt to do everything perfect instead of focusing on what you can control and the things at which you can really be perfect."

The players also must be motivated in order to overcome tough losses.

"If they have to be motivated to be their best, it's not a genuine motivation and won't be sustained through difficult times," Sucher said. "Players have to have high expectations of themselves and be internally motivated—I have found my role to be less as a motivator and more one to help players get focused and be confident in their abilities."

Coaches try their best after difficult losses to get over the loss and become more realistic. This is an important skill that coaches have. Winning is key in sports, but as Dooley said, it is also vital to "...play for each other and the love of the game." ☺

Cardinals face challenges next season

[Michael Roof]
Editor

Out with the old and in with the new—or something like that. With the departure of former GM Walt Jocketty after being relieved of his duties on Oct. 3, the Cardinals had an opportunity to start fresh at the managerial position of the team but instead chose to draw from within the organization.

John Mozeliak was chosen to be the eleventh general manager of the Cardinals and his history proves he is another safe fit for the job. As assistant GM under Jocketty for five years, Mozeliak is an apparent expert on contracts with players. He has also previously been a scouting director and has experience in many other managerial fields since joining the club in 1995.

According to MLB.com and the Cardinals, the Cardinals were looking at a number of GMs from around the league including Indians assistant GM Chris Antonetti, White Sox assistant GM Rick Hahn, Diamondbacks assistant GM Peter Woodford and former Dodgers GM Paul Depodesta but ended up selecting Mozeliak probably to retain some consistency in the front office.

"It is much better to hire within the organization since Mozeliak was groomed to be Jocketty's successor since he knows the players and the organization better than

anyone else," senior David Luten said.

Just weeks before the Mozeliak signing, another big signing occurred, and once again the Cardinals picked the safe route as they re-signed Manager Tony La Russa to a two-year contract as he finished his twelfth season with the Cards this past year. La Russa, the winningest coach in franchise history with 1,055 wins, has often been noted to 'over-manage' games costing the Cardinals valuable losses, but nobody can deny his success of the 2006 World Championship along with his seven postseason appearances and two National League pennants.

"La Russa was not solely to blame for the Cardinals' season," Luten said. "With so many key injuries early like with [Chris] Carpenter it was tough to play well with a short bench. La Russa was also responsible for almost bringing the Cardinals back late in the season."

Other fans argue with keeping La Russa after criticism of his coaching ability.

"The Cardinals needed to move on from La Russa," senior Ben Kirschner said. "The team lacked

energy and excitement and it was probably time to move on since other changes in the organization were happening as well."

With the changes in the front office and retaining La Russa, the Cardinals are still looking at a tough off-season with many needs to fill but hope Mozeliak can help bridge the gap between agents, players and the team.

The first challenge is deciding how to deal with four new free agents as 2006 World Series MVP David Eckstein, pitchers Kip Wells and Troy Percival, and infielder Miguel Cairo. Although Wells and Cairo are not integral parts of the team's formula for the future, Percival and Eckstein have proved their worth on the field forcing the Cardinal's management to face tougher decisions.

Beyond the realm of free agency, the Cardinals have many holes to fill, including strengthening a weak and previously demoralized pitching rotation, although partially due to injury last season to Chris Carpenter and Mark Mulder.

The Cardinals are also looking for a lead-off man and a shortstop as Eckstein may be leaving the team and struggled last season coming

The Cardinals need to move on from La Russa.

[Ben Stamp]
Junior

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Bryan Griesbaum

Junior Ben Peipert performs a difficult fireman's carry during wrestling practice. Varsity wrestlers work alongside first time wrestlers to share experience.

Wrestling team small but ready to tackle season

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

After head coach Boris Khodosov left at the end of last year, the wrestling program was primed for a change. With new coaches, players, leadership, and focus, everything about the CHS wrestling team is getting worked into shape.

That change comes in the form of science teacher, Doug Verby, who will take the role of head coach for the wrestling team. He will be assisted by campus supervisor John Howard. The two are working to step up the CHS wrestling program.

With 'little league' wrestling experience, and a successful varsity high school career, Verby is ready to tackle the task of reforming the program after what he calls a "lull" in the success of the program for the past couple years.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to get the wrestling program back on track," Verby said. "The main thing for us is to get our numbers back up. I'm not sure if there's a stigma involved with joining the wrestling team or if the sport is just not viewed as one of the most successful, but we want to get more people involved by showing we are a dedicated and focused team."

Verby hopes more underclassmen will join, even if just to improve or stay in shape for other sports like football or track.

As of now, the team is comprised of fifteen students. These low numbers have contributed to the program's organization in which there is only varsity level wrestling with small room for freshman exhibition matches.

"Lack of direction and organization has dwindled over the past years," Verby said. "With lowering focus and motivation, numbers fell and people got apathetic. People didn't want to join just based on the idea that they wouldn't learn or excel at it."

Senior varsity wrestler, Kevin Johnson worries the numbers will affect the team.

"The team is a bit smaller than the beginning of last year, however we have enough to be competitive and fill many weight classes," Johnson said. "We have a shortage of wrestlers above 145lb. Regardless of experience, there are plenty of varsity spots open to willing wrestlers. The team is very young and I feel that we will struggle early on because of that."

However, for Verby, getting people to join up is only

part of the task.

"The team will still be a pretty intense team," Verby said. "Right now we are concentrating on technique, running, and weight training. I really want to help improve technique because that has been ignored for the last few years in the program."

Practices have been intensified since past years. The team starts out with warm-ups, and drills, then they work on technique, and have practice matches until 4:45 p.m.

For at least 30-45 minutes after, they build stamina with sprint and long distance running and also working in the weight room.

Though running may not seem to be especially beneficial to a wrestler, it turns out to be one of the most useful tools they will use during the season.

"A six minute match doesn't sound like a lot but if the player is not in shape, they'll be dead tired by the end of the first period which is two minutes," Verby said. "These wrestlers need to be in the shape of a cross country runner in order to be able to survive. Luckily, we have a month lead time before matches. By the time they start, the wrestling team will be in pretty good shape."

For junior and varsity wrestler, Floyd Hemphill, the coming year has some exciting prospects.

"Wrestling has been going pretty good this year," Hemphill said. "The team is reacting very well to the new coaches. Practices are based more around the basics and fundamentals of wrestling so they took a couple of days to get used to. But now, they are really fun."

Verby is looking for both Hemphill and Johnson to step it up for the team this year. Last year, Johnson was a state qualifier.

"Kevin has the talent to build on and Floyd has a great record," Verby said. "They both have the potential to be great leaders."

Johnson uses his seniority as incentive to work harder.

"I have at times been a lazy wrestler in practice, but I'm trying to change that this year," Johnson said. "As one of the most experienced on the team, I have a responsibility to be a good role model for the underclassmen."

Hemphill plans to work on building up his strength

and technique to prepare for the season.

As for Johnson, he plans to achieve the goals he set for himself last year but never got the chance to finish. His goals were to never get pinned and to win at least one match at state.

"Despite having my best season, I failed on both accounts," Johnson said. "However, losing in quadruple overtime to the wrestler who went on to win 5th place at state showed me that I was capable of doing some damage this year."

Johnson has gone up two weight classes but is sure he can achieve the same success in his new class.

Howard, the assistant coach, is also a great new addition to the wrestling program.

"He does a great job helping with our higher weight class wrestlers' technique," Verby said. "He has a great background in wrestling and he helped out quite a bit back at Pattonville."

Verby hopes to build a great program for the future, wrestling up some more underclassmen for the program. With more involvement, more opportunities will become available for them.

"Having no freshman and JV team does become a problem," Verby said. "Sometimes freshman will be pushed into a weight class that we already have better upperclassmen in so they won't get to compete as much. But, in the end, they will be better for it because they will know the competition and be working to catch up with the older players."

Johnson offers some incentive for younger or more experienced players to join up.

"I have always felt that wrestling is an individual sport, so anyone with some talent and dedication can have a great season whether or not Clayton as a team has a good record," Johnson said.

The team continue to practice and polish their skills as the beginning of their season draws near. The first duo matches are against Chaminade and Maplewood the last weekend in November.

"I'm ready to get the new season started and I hope some younger underclassmen will try it out," Verby said. "Wrestling is a great sport- you've got to be in great shape and ready to compete to do well at it."

For Johnson, it's all about the victory and becoming a better person.

"Honestly I don't think I would wrestle if I wasn't good at it," Johnson said. "I enjoy winning. I guess that's what it comes down to. After spending so much time on a sport or art, you begin to question the value of what it is you are working so hard for. In the end, wrestling is fun and it keeps me strong. If I was walking along a path and a ninja jumped out of the bushes and attacked me, whence before I would turn and run, I now would stand and fight, and achieve victory." ☺

my ball handling," Bell said.

Other players on the team echoed that approach.

"I want to develop my defense and rebounding as well as become a better overall player," Warner said.

While the Hounds first game is in the Vianney tournament on Nov. 27, the team is already geared for a couple of opponents.

"I am already looking forward to playing Whitfield (Dec. 14) and Ladue (Feb. 8)," Bell said.

"I am already excited for the first game and the first home game (Lutheran North on Dec. 4), and of course, the game against Ladue," Warner added.

As the Hounds look to write a new page in the history of Clayton high basketball, keep a close eye on the dark horse contenders for a lengthy playoff run in February. ☺

Hockey player hopeful for a peaceful, tough Clayton - Ladue hockey game

Rivalries are everything in the world of sports. Cardinals and Cubs. Michigan and Ohio State. Yankees and Red Sox. And the list goes on. Even if both teams are last in their respective divisions, the rivalry game gives both teams the chance to win bragging rights until the next meeting.

Everyone at Clayton and Ladue knows the rivalry between the schools from a fan's perspective, but from a player's point of view, the rivalry is even better. People on both teams know kids on the opposite bench and never fail to remind them of past games and plays. Over the past few years the Clayton vs. Ladue hockey game has been much anticipated but not necessarily because of events on the ice.

For the past several years fights have broken out in the stands, but what the fans and everyone else forgets is the great games that took place and the players involved. The players themselves are friends and know each other very well. Nobody wants to end the game or play without the fans but the fans must understand and know how to act civilized as well.

The possibility that the Clayton vs. Ladue game would be canceled for my senior season was terrible to imagine, but I was relieved to find out that we will play them twice during the course of the season. The first meeting, as many fans know already, is Nov. 24—yes, a Saturday night, at 8 p.m. at Affton ice rink. If you didn't realize already, the game is over Thanksgiving break when all alums are back in town.

The same people who started the fights the past two years will be in the stands together—this time not as students of their respective high schools but as college students under practically no rules or expectations.

From a player's perspective this is a scary thing to think about because the possibility of a fight is pretty high. All we want to do is play a good, competitive game.

The possibility of the game being moved to a remote rink or banning all fans except for families is a reality that I hope is not necessary. The game is not the same without fans, and the school pride and rivalry exhibited by fans throughout the years has been awesome. I hope it continues but in a beneficial way. As players we feed off of the emotion of the fans and need their energy in order to play a high tempo and aggressive game from start to finish.

Please do not let the rivalry get out of control this year. If anything happens prior to the game, fans will not be allowed in, and once again the players will suffer. We want and need our fans at the game, and the rest of the games in the season, but in a constructive manner. This cannot happen, and I urge all fans to come out to the game to cheer for your team and not against the other.

Come out with your family during the Thanksgiving break but don't come to fight. Fighting causes innocent kids to get hurt and the players of both teams to suffer the bad reputation we undeservingly receive from the schools and people in the community. The games are fun, exciting, and I promise you will not be disappointed at the result if you come to the game and actually watch.

Let the players and the result of the game speak louder than your fists. Maybe then the hockey teams will achieve some much over-due respect, and we can successfully continue the type of healthy rivalry exhibited over the past years prior to the fights. ☺



As one of the most experienced on the team, I have a responsibility to be a good role model for the underclassmen.

[Kevin Johnson]
Varsity Wrestler

Basketball team sets goals for new season

[Evan Green]
Staff Reporter

The Clayton basketball team is beginning anew. The Hounds have just four returning players from last year's varsity team and just one returning starter. The team has already begun practicing for the new season.

"The team has shown a great

work ethic and they are really working hard," varsity basketball coach Ryan Luhning said.

With the return of senior center Zoe Veale and senior guard Whitt Downey, as well as junior forward Syd Warner and sophomore point guard Devonte Bell, the Hounds are raw but full of potential.

"This is going to be a very different season than the last," Ryan Luhning said. "We are going to rely on inexperienced players, and hopefully they will respond."

The team has already spotted several strong points for the season.

"We have already seen some good guard play and we will be able to score this season," Luhning said.

On the flip side, the team knows that they have several things to improve on, as a team and

individually.

"I would like to average 10 points per game, as well as 10 assists per game, 5 rebounds per game, and 4 steals per game," Bell said.

Other players felt the same way. "I really want to become a better leader for the team as well as help the team win districts and have a better record than last season," Warner said.

Even the coach has set some improvement possibilities for the team.

"I am a little concerned about rebounding and defense because we are such a small team," Luhning said. "But we are working very hard in practice."

The players also believe that they have key areas of their game to improve.

"I would really like to improve



Bryan Griesbaum

Senior center Zoe Veale attempts a dunk during basketball practice.

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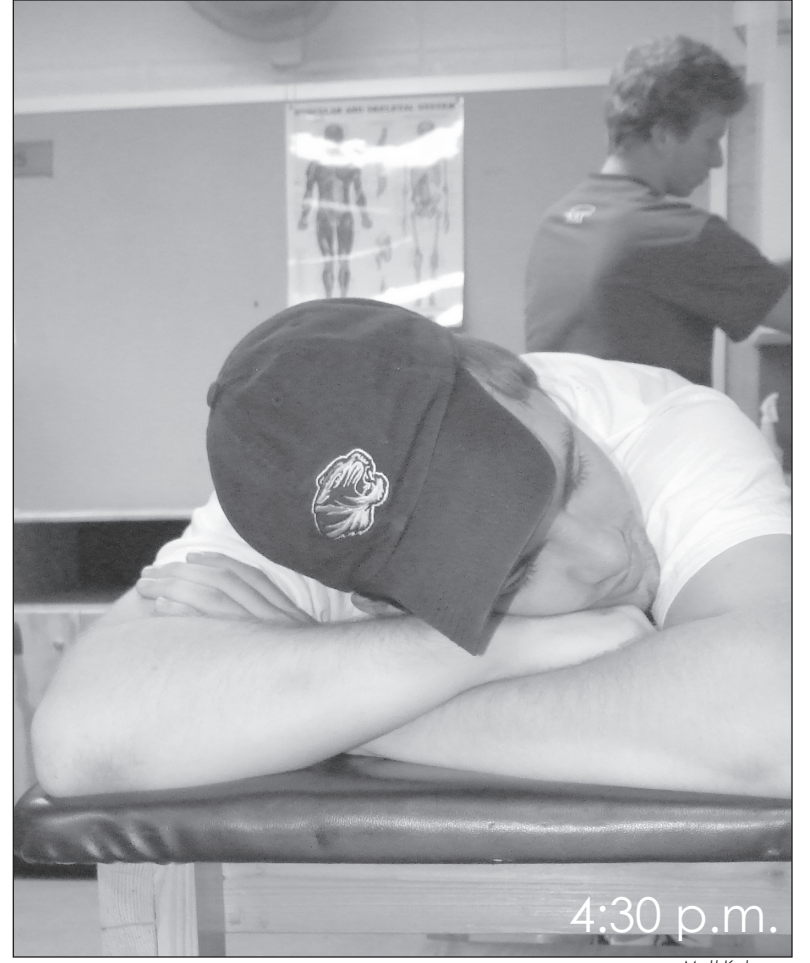
Behind the Scenes

You see what happens during the game, but do you know what goes on before the game starts?



4:00 p.m.

Matt Katzman



4:30 p.m.

Matt Katzman



5:15 p.m.

Matt Katzman

4:00 p.m - Senior Tucker Szybala and Junior Scott Shapiro converse during the pregame meal. Meals are usually consist of multiple courses including spaghetti, salad, bread and cookies.

4:30 p.m. - Still digesting the meal, Senior Kicker Mike Bollinger catches a nap while sophomore Graham Gold gets his wrist taped in the background. During this period, players nap, study plays, get taped for injuries and prepare for a game.

5:15 p.m. - After napping and reading up on some plays, Junior Dustin Dye perfects his eye paint before going out for specialty warm-up.

5:30 p.m.- Senior Captain Daniel Waterbury leads stretches during specialty period. Specialty period is for special teams players (punters, kickers, kick returners and place holders) in order to practice before the game.

5:45 p.m. - Kicker Mike Bollinger practices kicking the ball in order to prepare for the game.

6:00 p.m. - Juniors Hal Lewis and Jacob Waldman talk while getting their pads on.

6:25 p.m. - Junior Arsenio Randall practices Llneman drills on Coach Hughes. While the lineman practice different drills, the running backs and receivers also practice running and catching the ball.

6:55 p.m. - Coach Horrell gives the team a pep talk to pump up the team right before opening kickoff.



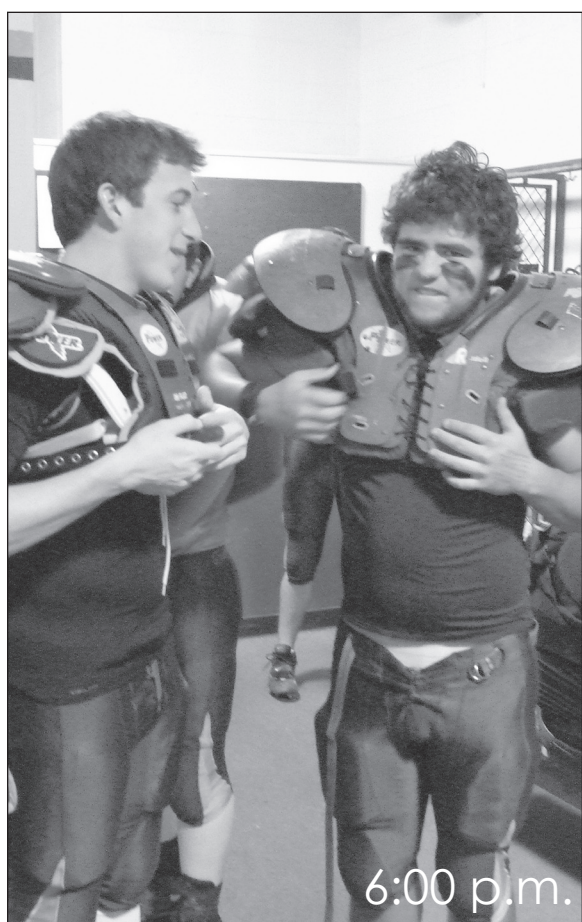
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Matt Katzman



5:45 p.m.

Matt Katzman



6:00 p.m.

Matt Katzman



6:25 p.m.

Matt Katzman



6:55 p.m.

Matt Katzman

Modernization of iconic Gateway Arch proposed

[Nick Andriole]
Staff Reporter

St. Louis' Gateway Arch is among one of the most recognizable monuments internationally. However, plans are being proposed that could change the appearance of the area surrounding the arch. Local officials would like to integrate the arch grounds with the other attractions and businesses downtown.

"I feel lately the arch grounds don't have a good image of St. Louis because they haven't been modernized recently," senior Krystal Bell said.

In recent years, many new attractions have opened in the downtown area that draw large numbers of tourists including the City Museum, new Bush Stadium, and Lumière Place, a new casino and luxury hotel project due to open this winter. After two years of planning and study by the Danforth Foundation, plans have now been released of how the Arch and St. Louis' Riverfront will become better integrated with downtown. Plans have been in the works for decades but have failed to materialize.

"The Arch is one of the world's great monuments and one of this community's chief assets," Danforth said in a press release. "The idea is to complement this asset and our presence on America's greatest river. We are currently missing our opportunity to make the most of these two great treasures."

St. Louis appears to be following the lead of other major cities by integrating its attractions into green space. Plans call for an interactive park-like setting directly linked to the Gateway Arch, similar to Chicago's 24.5 acre Millennium Park, directly adjacent to The Art Institute of Chicago. Similarly, once abandoned piers in New York City have been revitalized with unique fountains, benches, and bike rentals and integrated to city attractions such as the Circle Line Sightseeing Cruise at Pier 83.

"I think the arch grounds are aesthetically pleasing, however they could use some improvements to keep up with other national monuments," senior Shaina Abrams-Kornblum said.

Four options have been presented, all of which include unique activities and features such as swimming, fountains, skating, distinctive restaurants, and one plan even calls for islands in the river, interconnected by floating elevated walkways.

Today, Arch visitors must cross over both Memorial Drive and Interstate 70, which is open-air and below grade. Crossing loud and busy streets is not pleasant or safe for pedestrians, which is a barrier to revitalizing downtown. However, plans call for installing a 'lid', enclosing the traffic lanes.

"The arch is an icon and significant structure," Kevin Farrell Downtown St. Louis Partnership Senior Director Economic Development and Housing said. "Being able to better connect downtown to the arch and riverfront will have a positive impact on all of St. Louis."

Enclosing the lanes of traffic would require ventilation and security equipment, which would need to be installed on land owned by the National Park Service.

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial includes the Gateway Arch and the 91 acres of green space surrounding the arch. The Jefferson Memorial is part of the national park system and any changes proposed would require an act of congress. The study completed by the Danforth Foundation reports that the national park land is among the only remaining land near the arch that is not subject to flooding.

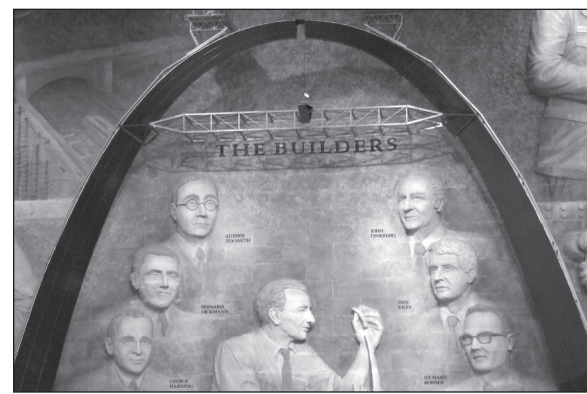
Local officials appear to be very supportive of such a plan.

"It's a tremendous resource that is underutilized and I'm very supportive of what Sen. Danforth and Mayor Slay are trying to do," Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill said.



Jenna Wonish

Above: a view of the iconic St. Louis Gateway Arch as it stands today. Below left: one of the exhibitions featured at the Arch grounds about the builders. Below right: the lagoon at the Arch grounds, one of the areas under design revision. The Danforth Foundation is spearheading the proposed changes to the grounds surrounding the Arch which area officials hope will spur economic growth.



Jenna Wonish



Jenna Wonish

Cancellation of Halloween Dance raises questions

Halloween, 1

Instead, StuGo plans on hosting some other fundraisers that they hope students will find more appealing.

Minton thinks students were making a statement by not buying tickets.

"Honestly, I think the dance was cancelled because the majority of the student body was irritated with the dullness of homecoming," Minton said. "I think it was a negative attitude, but also at homecoming there was a line of teachers in the hallway staring you in the face every five seconds to make sure you weren't drunk, and I think that ticked a lot of people off, especially because it was unexpected. I personally think that it was a combination of a lot of reasons."

Losos regretted that StuGo had to make such a call.

"I was disappointed for the students, both for those who wished to attend the dance and disappointed for those students who acted on the phrase 'cut off your nose to spite your face,'" Losos said. "The dances are put on for them and by them, so they are cutting their own fun."

Hamylak was a bit surprised because the Halloween dance has typically been among the students' favorite for the past few years.

"I thought students should have given the dance a shot even though many were frustrated after the homecoming dance," Hamylak said.

Many rumors going around the school the week of the dance contributed to the lack of ticket sales.

"There seemed to be a big rumor spreading around school that the staff was going to enforce a very strict dress code at the dance, which seemed to affect students' decision to not attend," Hamylak said. "I initially thought students did not want to go to the dance because of rumors that were being spread - a new, strict dress code; more, brighter lights; and a change in music selection. In fact these were all rumors. There was no truth to these changes. I spoke with the StuGo officers and several other students to find out exactly why students were not planning on attending and some mentioned the rumors and the addition of more chaperones, but many said the bottom line was that students felt the homecoming dance was not as fun as previous years simply because students did not drink alcohol beforehand, so they did not want to waste their money on the Halloween dance."

Losos thinks several misperceptions added to student disinterest.

"I think students wanted to make a point," Losos said. "We put the dances on for them. So a cancellation of a dance just means that's one night less that I have to be out supervising something. I think that they're harming their own fun."

The Breathalyzer seemed to curtail drinking before the homecom-



Jackie Wilcher

Students wait eagerly and impatiently before the homecoming dance. The long line and many chaperones watching perturbed many students and is part of the reason many decided not to attend the Halloween dance and, perhaps, future dances.

ing dance and as a result many students, especially upperclassmen, said they did not have as much fun.

"In the beginning of the school year, I spoke to a tremendous number of student groups, and I said repeatedly there are some non-negotiables," Losos said.

"Coming to the dance under the influence of alcohol needs to stop, so we're going to have a Breathalyzer. We're going to ask for more chaperones because we've been under-chaperoned and we're going to ask for coaches to come because I think they have a closer personal relationship with students. Those were the only changes. I said to the students that these are your dances; they are what you make them to be. What can we do to help maintain the excitement and fun of the dances?" Hamylak finds the unspoken message about the dance cancellation troubling.

"I can't help but think that our students rely too much on alcohol to have a good time," Hamylak said. "The students as a whole have clearly sent a message that dances in previous years were more fun because many students attended under the influence of alcohol. For that, I am saddened and concerned

that alcohol use may be an even more common among our students than I originally thought."

Hamylak said a large number of students were actually looking forward to the Halloween Dance.

"Unfortunately, those are probably the same students who do not drink," Hamylak said. "I guess the students who do drink overpowered the ones who abstain from alcohol. I hope students rethink what makes school dances fun and why they are great traditions here at CHS and all across the country. I hope students can find ways to have fun without alcohol." Losos agrees that the message is

disturbing.

"When the school says they need to reduce the amount of drinking at dances, and the student response is to boycott the dance, then one wonders what the message received is," Losos said. "The message sent is, 'If we [students] can't drink before dances, then we're not going to come.' I don't think that it was intended, but that was one way to interpret the boycott."

Losos thinks what caused the unpopularity of the dance was a combination of events all coming together.

"There were new tighter academic expectations i.e. the tardy policies, combined with higher ex-

pectations for student's behavior at school dances," Losos said. "The students felt like it was a little like a crackdown."

Steve Singer, president of the Clayton School Board, is saddened by the situation but supportive of Losos's efforts to eliminate underage drinking at school events.

"I am hopeful that students and the administration can come together and work out a solution that will allow students to support school dances without undermining efforts to stop students attending school dances drunk."

Singer said the decision to increase the number of chaperones and to use Breathalyzers was discussed at forums and was a carefully thought-through plan to address the district's long-term concern about students from coming to dances drunk. No decision about the March dance has been made yet.

"I've talked to many students about their concerns and their thoughts, and shared mine," Losos said. "I have stated repeatedly that I am always open to discuss any decision we make. If I can't explain it, then we shouldn't have made it. As the principal of the building, decisions that are made and approaches we take come back to me. Unfortunately, the dances had reached a point where non-action was no longer a viable or appropriate course of action. The dances are as fun as you make them to be. The only requirement we have is that you come without drinking or using drugs ahead of time. This is not an unreasonable request."

Sophomores Eliana Harris and Chelsea Hesterberg are both on StuGo. They thought that homecoming went well, but that it was not as good as previous dances from other years.

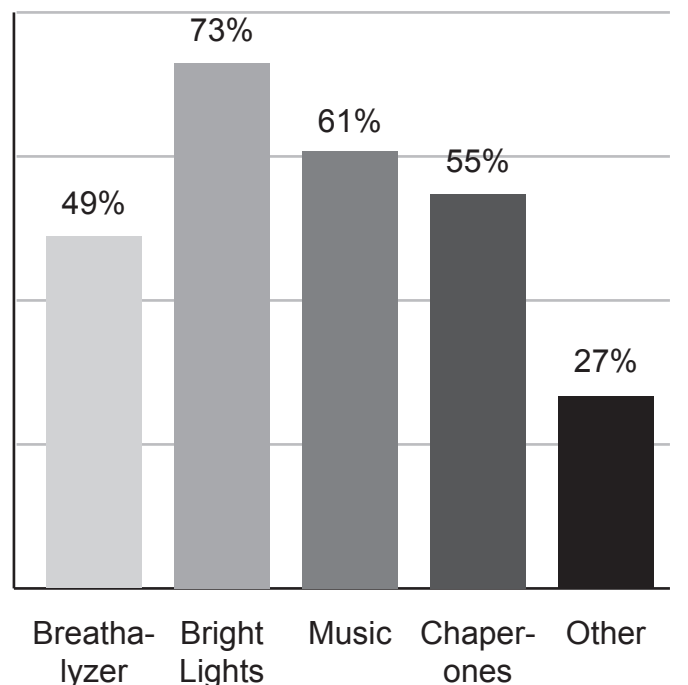
"I believe that most students didn't want to go because at the homecoming dance the music was repeated multiple times and wasn't good," Hesterberg said. "The lights were brighter than usual. Tons of people left within the first 10 minutes, and things were just awkward."

Harris sees the administration's perspective on this matter.

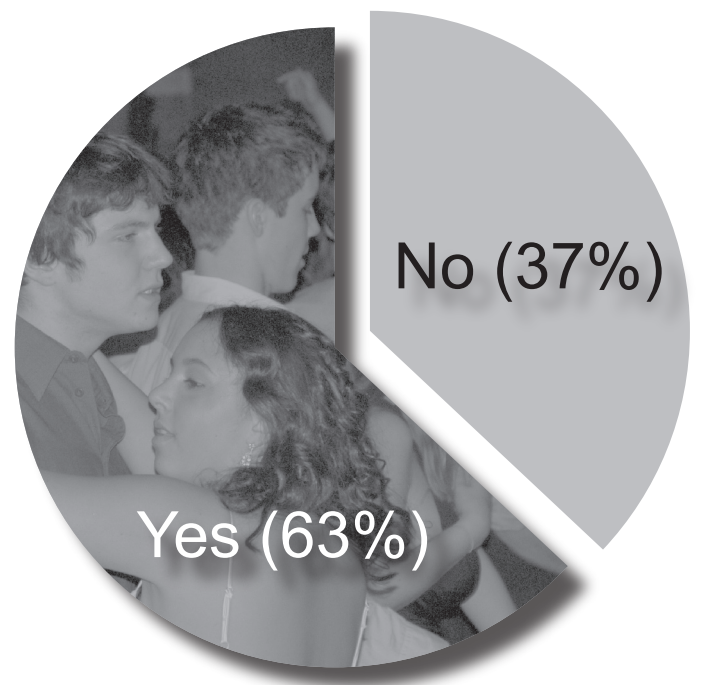
"Students think that if they don't buy tickets, it will hurt the school and the administration, and that eventually something will have to be changed to raise the money that dances normally raise," Harris said. "People then think the dances might get better. If you know your parents are against the new dance policy and we can get enough parents together, maybe it would be helpful if students and their parents could go to the administration and try to come to a different agreement that might be more appealing to students and their parents since I know some parents don't like the Breathalyzer idea."

The future of CHS dances remains to be decided.

What are the biggest problem(s) with the dances?



Are you planning to go to Peppers?



Do you want to go to Prom?

Based on random survey of 88 students

Drinking causes parents concern

Many parents feel that the parents are ultimately responsible for the underage drinking. Whether they turn a "blind-eye" or leave an open house, many believe that parents should take preventative action.

[Abby Eisenberg]
Editor

In the past five years, over 50 alcohol related incidents have been reported at CHS. This high number causes concern and curiosity on whether or not CHS parents, as the last people students see before heading out to the dances, have done their part to reduce alcohol issues at school functions occurring within their very own houses.

Parents seem to be quite concerned about the issue. Many anonymous parents expressed their viewpoints on the activities of their fellow parents concerning their children's potential alcohol use.

"The students seem to always find an unsupervised home on a weekend night. The drinking opportunities could be reduced for our students if parents would make sure their homes are supervised. This responsibility is much

more important on the nights of high school dances. This seems to be a time when more students are tempted to experiment with alcohol and overdo it."

Another anonymous parent states, "There is a predominant culture of acceptance of the problem instead of wanting to act on it. It should be difficult for kids to have access to alcohol. Parents need to monitor their kids' behavior, set limits and not be afraid to check. Parents should also be watchful of the behavior they are modeling."

According to a survey put out to CHS freshman, sophomores and seniors last year, 40%, 57%, and 61% of each class, respectively, reported to have drunken within the last 30 days.

According to the same survey, the majority of students who drink start drinking between ages 15 and 16.

To address this rising problem,

the administration has recently instigated stricter alcohol policies. Most parents agree with the recent actions implemented by the administration.

I support the efforts of Dr. Losos to enforce the long standing district policy against students coming to school events drunk," School Board President and CHS parent Steve Singer said.

"The administration basically implemented two actions: the use of breathalyzers and an increase in chaperones," Singer said. "In addition there were some actions that

students perceived were taken but were not such as restricting music and the lighting issue. I am hopeful that students and the administration can work through these issues and come to agreement,

so that future dances can be held that will be safe and fun."

CHS Parent Maria Birgisson believes that though students may feel otherwise, the administration is being more than fair.

"Students think their rights are infringed upon by a breathalyzer," Birgisson said. "It would behoove the school to have the police

captain and a lawyer explain to the kids that they have no right in this situation and that there are legal consequences to their behavior."

In conjunction with the new rules at CHS, the school has encouraged reinforcement at home. Through the "parent's page" of the newsletter, the school suggests actions parents could possibly take to address the alcohol issue at school.

The school encourages clear messages, constant conversation between parent and students, responsible role-modeling and a clear set of consequences. CHS parents also have their own viewpoints on the responsibility of the parents as a whole.

"I think the most important thing parents can do is to get to know their children's friends and to keep lines of communications open with their kids," Singer said. "I think many parents turn a blind eye to what their kids are doing be-

cause they have stopped talking to their kids."

Birgisson agrees that parents may sometimes ignore the problems existing with their children.

"The alcohol problem at CHS is not new, and is unfortunately enabled by parents who either actively support underage drinking or turn a 'blind eye'," Birgisson said. "This situation is dangerous not just to the minors, and their lawbreaking parents but to everyone if they get behind the wheel."

In the end, each parent has to make their own decision, and be responsible for how they want their kids to conduct themselves at school dances, and in the rest of their life.

"As a parent, I have spoken to my children about alcohol and taught them to enjoy life and outings without the need to drink alcohol, or under the influence of other drugs," Birgisson said. ☺

Tutors inspire confidence

[Hannah Novak]
Staff Reporter

"I got a tutor because I thought it would help me raise my math grade to the 'exceptional' student level," junior Reynolds Ellston said.

Reynolds Ellston is one of the many Clayton students who meet with a tutor once or twice a week.

There are various reasons for seeing a tutor. Some students meet with a tutor because they have been struggling in a particular class.

"Before I had a tutor, I would just let some equations and methods I didn't understand slide, so I would bomb the test," freshman Carter Ellston said. "My tutor explains the things I don't understand."

While others want to receive personal help outside the classroom.

"If I am struggling with a homework assignment or a problem, I can call my tutor," Reynolds Ellston said.

Educational Coach, Dennis Nicely, B.S., M.A., has been tutoring students for 27 years. Nicely tutors students from elementary all through high school.

With older students, including middle and high school, Nicely helps them with study skills, advanced reading techniques, English spelling and mechanics, writing compositions and essays, and mathematics. In addition, he helps students prepare for the college entrance exams, ACT, and SAT.

"I try to keep the sessions relevant to what the student is learning in school," Nicely said. "I teach him or her strategies to learn the new information and integrate it with information previously learned."

Tutoring sessions usually include preparation for an upcoming test or in-depth lessons in the material the class is currently learning.

"Instead of just having me memorize a basic equation," Reynolds Ellston said, "my tutor explains how the equation is derived so I further understand the problems."

For junior Scott Shapiro, a typical math tutoring session includes discussing the latest or next test, homework, and practice problems that pertain to the unit his class is studying.

"My tutor helps me identify and grasp the big picture," Shapiro said.

Along with help in specific subjects, tutoring can also improve basic study techniques that come in handy in all classes.

"My tutor has taught me to use flashcards to study for math," Carter Ellston said. "This also helps when I need to study for, say, a Latin vocabulary test."

Nicely believes one of the most important study techniques is previewing chapters.

"Doing this helps to connect previously learned information and have a sense of what will be taught in the chapter," Nicely said.

Additionally, Nicely suggests that a student should try to read at least one section ahead in content area subjects.

"Reading ahead allows you to become familiar with new vo-

cabulary and concepts," Nicely said. "Thus having a sense of what will be covered when the teacher has you take notes over the new material."

Another important study technique is to review newly learned information daily. If there is information not understood, a student should seek assistance. Junior Jacob Waldman, who at one time had a tutor, uses this technique often.

"I call my smart friends," Waldman said.

An aspect that Reynolds Ellston considers important in the learning process is having a good, positive relationship with her tutor.

"We're friends and we joke around," Reynolds Ellston said. "It's really easy for me to learn from him because he's nice and understanding."

As students, both Reynolds Ellston and Shapiro say that tutoring is enjoyable. Nicely also finds tutoring enjoyable.

"I enjoy witnessing how excited students become about learning when they are able to make connections with information that they were previously unable to understand," Nicely said.

With the extra help outside the classrooms, many students see improvements.

"Ever since I have been seeing my tutor, I have an average of 85% on my math tests," Shapiro said.

Reynolds Ellston also sees many benefits to tutoring.

"Tutoring is really beneficial to me not only in the short-term, but long-term as well," Reynolds Ellston said. ☺



Above: a sink in the science lab that is rusting and is in dire need of replacement before further contamination occurs and

Labs need renovation

[Sam Jacus]
Staff Reporter

As the years pass by, the science facilities remain unchanged. The science floor was last renovated in its entirety nearly half a century ago. The last renovation was before the occupation of the high schools longest tenured teachers.

A few of the classrooms have been updated since then, but are still lacking the modern look and needed equipment. A decade has passed since anything has been done about the science labs and classrooms, with the exception of updating the equipment.

There is great controversy. Between six and 17 million dollars needs to be spent on renovations, while books and other school supplies are crumbling away.

"The lab spaces need to be upgraded," principal Dr. Louise Losos said. "The biology rooms need to be renovated and we need to begin looking towards the future."

Other staff members feel that adjustments need to be made, but they question whether or not that amount of money needs to be spent.

"The aging, dripping, and rusting fixtures need to be replaced, and additionally, some greenhouse

or growing space would be desirable," science department chair Mike Howe said.

"We need more rooms, storage, and classroom flexibility. We currently have 14 teachers and 12 rooms. One of the rooms is not appropriately equipped for science and others are showing their age."

Both many science teachers and students agree with Howe.

"There are some equipment and classroom items that could stand to be updated," freshman Cory Cannon said. "I think a new lab for each subject should be added for use on special lab projects."

Staff members feel that action needs to be taken, while numerous students do not understand or see the urgency of the situation and think that money should be spent elsewhere.

"I don't think that the science spaces need to be renovated," senior Drew Sandler said. "It looks like it is in good shape, and I really haven't heard of or seen any problems with it at all during my time at Clayton. If I were put in charge of adding something to the science floor, it would probably be removing the door between Ms Reiter's and Mr. Verby's room and replacing it with a brick wall, because I know the two of them would appreciate it," said Sandler.

Other students agree with

Sandler.

"A renovation of the science floor is not absolutely necessary," sophomore Nina Oberman said. "I already enjoy learning in the lab rooms we have. There is nothing I could point out that is wrong with the science rooms, but perhaps it's the case that we just need more."

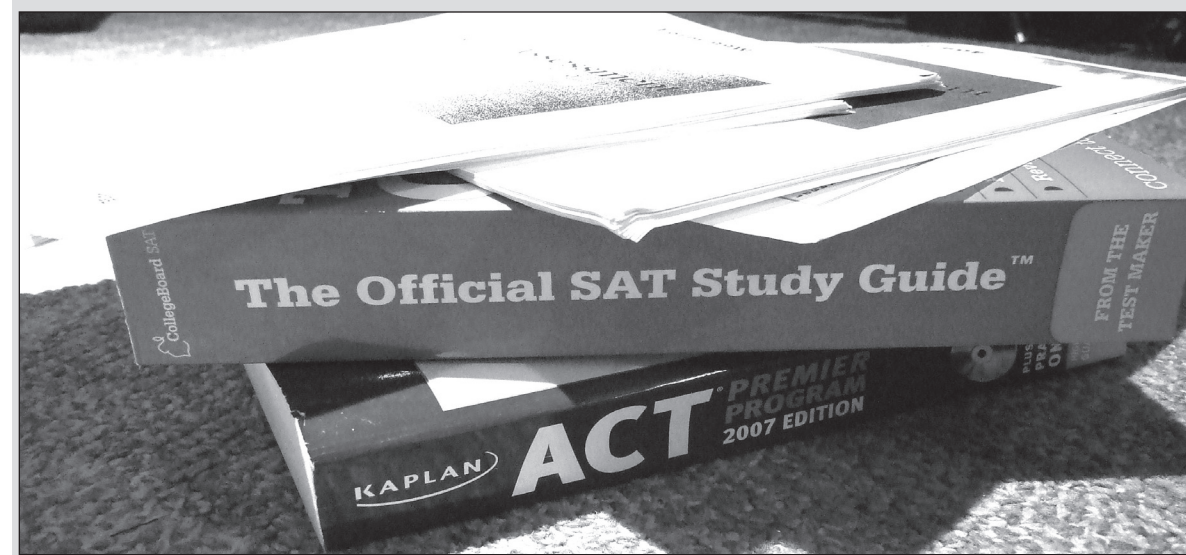
The administration and science department is beginning to think about various possibilities and plans for the renovations.

"One of the potential plans for the renovation involves an addition going out over the library in order to maximize the number of classrooms," Losos said. "It depends upon which direction the District decides to go."

"The final design, if renovations are approved, could change," Howe said. A date hasn't been set; the project is still under discussion."

Currently the project is almost at a standstill. The renovation is dependent upon funding. Funding that is not currently available. One possible source of funding could be the sale of the property that is currently Clayton Child Center formerly the old Maryland school.

With plans still up for questioning, input is being asked for. The school hopes the design for the science floor is one in which people will be happy and that will help increase learning. ☺



Many CHS students have found tutors helpful, not just in classes but for standardized testing as well.

ACT class gives positive environment for success

[Anya Veremakis]
Editor

Three dreaded letters, three hours, and comparable by colleges to a student's grades all four years of high school—the ACT.

For those who do not know, and obviously have not started the college search, the ACT is a "standardized achievement examination." It consists of an English, math, reading and science section. Scores on the ACT are on a scale of 36 and are a great factor in college acceptance.

Naturally, students are eager to do their very best on the test and will stop at nothing to obtain these scores. The real question is how to do that.

Although ACT tutors are very popular, many students have chosen to take ACT classes instead.

"ACT class was rather helpful for me because I work better when I'm not under pressure to answer

questions one on one," senior Laura Shoemaker said. "The Princeton Review was really helpful because every time I wanted to take another practice test or attend an extra class before the ACT, they let me."

With an obviously large interest in the classes, some years ago CHS made a summer school ACT prep class taught by Kaplan; however, just this last summer CHS math teacher Kurt Kleinberg took over the position of coordinator.

"I have always wanted to teach my own ACT or SAT course," Kleinberg said. "Back when I was in college, I worked at a Sylvan Learning Center for four years. After a while of promotion and advancement, I was offered to teach the math and science parts of the ACT course that they offered over the weekend. I then became the full-time ACT instructor. Obviously, after several goes with the course, I became very acquainted with the test, its content and its strategies. I soon developed a lot of my own strategies and methods and conducted outside research to develop my own style.

After I moved on from Sylvan, I eventually began privately tutoring for the ACT as I gathered materials of my own."

The CHS course is four weeks long are 60 contact hours, whereas most ACT classes are only 20 contact hours. With three times as many hours, Kleinberg created a rigorous syllabus for the class.

"The course is basically focused on spiraling through each section [English, math, reading and science] one subject per day with Friday as a review," Kleinberg said. "I incorporated vocabulary twice a week and also included essay writing practice as this section has been recently added to the ACT. The unique part of the class structure was that we not only dealt with each section, but focused on each part of each section in detail. Therefore, we were able to look at in detail each type of passage with a plethora of examples of each type. We utilized the text book for examples and practice as well as additional handouts and supplements."

The class was full with 24 students enrolled by the

end of the first week that it was available to sign up.

"As soon as I heard about the class I signed up," senior Emily Owen said. "One of my friends mentioned it to me, and it sounded really appealing, especially because it is free. Tutoring and other ACT classes costs hundreds of dollars at other places, so I figured I'd try the free one first."

While the class mostly consisted of incoming seniors, some incoming juniors took it as well in order to get a head start on preparation.

"I decided to take the class because everybody in the grade above me told me they wished they would have started preparing earlier and taken the test for the first time earlier than they did," junior Courtney Pierce said. "I think it really helped me because now I have a really good idea of what the test is like, and I have a lot of time to improve on my weaknesses."

It seems that ACT classes work for many CHS students and it's never too early to face those three dreaded letters. ☺

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

After a five-year battle with leukemia, senior Brian Lipsey passed away on Nov. 13. Though he may be gone, Lipsey's legacy lives on through the example he left to all with his strength, thoughtfulness, resiliency, and courage to fight the arduous battle.

[Jeremy Bleeke]
Editor

When asked to describe senior Brian Lipsey, CHS nurse Dede Coughlin spoke of his optimism, his humor, and his courage. "He was very mature," Coughlin said. "He was quiet, but not shy, and he ran very deep. He was very observant of other people. He had a very good sense of humor, and when he could be at school he was very happy to be here."

Lipsey died on November 13, after a five-year fight with Leukemia.

Born on April 26, 1990, he was 17 years old.

When Lipsey began at Wydown in sixth grade, Coughlin was the nurse.

She has since moved to the high school, and had cultivated a long-term relationship with Lipsey.

"As I think about him, the things that are most amazing about him are not his courage, and he was courageous," Coughlin said. "And not the hope that he

had, and he always did until he died, but that never in the almost five years that he fought this disease was he ever angry, and never did he, or his mother, say 'Why me? Why is this happening to us?' And that's the amazing thing."

Junior Jemeel McCoo agrees that Lipsey never lost his positive outlook on life.

"He was never seen with a frown on his face," McCoo said. "He was always happy."

History teacher Paul Hoelscher had Lipsey as a sophomore in his World History II class.

He also remembers Lipsey's strength and maturity.

"He was tough, resilient,"

Hoelscher said. "Brian never made an excuse for anything. He never allowed his health to ever be talked about, because it's not like he ignored talking about it, but he did not allow that to define himself. He was extremely mature. At 33 I would struggle a lot with what he struggled with, and he was very noble in his fight. I think he was very courageous in his fight. He was very hopeful."

Hoelscher said that even though Lipsey missed school because of his health, he was still a driven and inquisitive student.

"Brian was curious, he was



Brian Lipsey's senior yearbook photo. Lipsey was a lifelong Clayton student who loved history and Cardinals baseball. Though he was in and out of school for the past five years due to his fight against Leukemia, he loved learning and tried to remain a part of CHS.

interested, he was thoughtful in the true sense of the word that he thought about things," Hoelscher said. "With being in and out, and sort of back and forth, it was hard to get him through the daily routine, but I think he really thought about the big picture in the course of history. He had a special interest in, and we kind of connected a little bit, on civil rights. There were time periods in class when he couldn't

be there for large portions of units so he would do some independent study, and when I gave him a wide variety of choices he usually selected something in regards to African American history. I remember in particular that he read 'The Autobiography of Malcolm X.'" Outside of class, Hoelscher connected with Lipsey in their love of Cardinals baseball.

"Cardinals baseball was some-

thing that we shared," Hoelscher said. "I went with a couple students from class at one point and we brought a videogame—the Baseball MLB something—and we got together a couple of times and played that."

Lipsey's passion for the Cardinals is something that many remember about him.

"I never saw him without some sort of Cardinals memorabilia on," Senior Max Jewett said.

Coughlin agrees.

"He was an amazing, amazing Cardinals fan," Coughlin said.

He may have been more of a Cardinals fan than even the Cardinals themselves. And we were talking about his future one of the last days that he was able to be at school, and he wanted to go to chef school—it was a big dream of his to become a chef. And we were talking about different chef schools, and places where he could find good restaurants, etc.

And I grew up in Chicago, and I said, 'You know, Brian, once you finish chef school there are some amazing restaurants in Chicago that you could work at.' And he looked at me and he said, 'I can't go to Chicago.' And I said 'Well it's not that far, it's

only—' and he said, 'No, no, you don't understand, I cannot work in Chicago.' And I asked why, and he

said 'Because of the Cubs.' And that's who he was."

Senior Patrick Brown remembers Lipsey's persistence and determination that he exhibited throughout his life.

"The main thing about Brian was that if he made up his mind to do something, he did it," Brown said. "You couldn't rush him."

Ultimately, Hoelscher believes that out of the tragedy of Lipsey's death, he can find something to be grateful for.

"I would say that all of us can take the positives out of Brian's life—his resiliency, his strength, the fight that he went through," Hoelscher said. "And to go through it in a very personal, and very quiet, but very honorable way, is what I'll try and take from this."

So I'll be left with Brian's strength, and his fight. If something comes up in my own life, or if something comes up in someone else's life, I think you can use Brian as an example. This kid dealt with a whole heck of a lot, and didn't ask for help, and never wanted to be treated differently."

I'll be left with Brian's strength and his fight. If something comes up in my own life or someone else's life, I think I can use Brian as an example. This kid dealt with a whole heck of a lot and didn't ask for help, and never wanted to be treated differently.

[Paul Hoelscher]
History Teacher

BRIAN LIPSEY

APRIL 26, 1990 - NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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Students look forward to renovations of ice rink

[Sam Jacus]
Staff Reporter

Every day on the way to school you drive by it. The abandoned building in Shaw Park next to the pool is what used to be the ice rink. A sheet of ice and profit are what wait in the future for the ice rink.

"People forget the rink is even there sometimes," senior Chad Mehlman said. "I don't think I have skated at the rink in a few years, I wish I could skate there more often but it seems like the rink is always closed."

Not only could practices be held at the rink, but there is also the probability that Clayton hockey games could be held there too.

Some students however feel that "The only problem is the appearance of the rink," freshman Alex Breckenridge said. "Besides that I don't see anything wrong with the location besides it being kind of creepy."

Many students feel that like Breckenridge the appearance of the rink needs to be improved.

"It looks like almost like a waste of space compared to other rinks because of its poor visual appearance," sophomore Michael Vishnevetsky said. "However it is one of the only outdoor rinks left in the state and is the only one that hockey can be played on."

The condition of the rink in the past has been questionable but improvements are only a short step away. With the high cost for Centene Stadium what caused the questioning of the repairing needed to fix the ice rink? What caused delays in having the rink fixed?

The delays in the repairs for the ice rink were environment and safety problems with the cooling system that needed to be dealt with before reopening.

"The delays were caused due to the timing of the incident," board member Tom Horlacher said. "By the time the problem was discovered it was too late in the season for the repairs to be made."

"Equipment needed to be ordered that took a long time to ship and the concerns caused the closer of the rink in the mean time."

Although the cost for the ice rink was not small it trembled when compared to the cost of Centene Stadium. The cost for the repairs and updates on the rink will reach nearly \$200,000. "The majority of this money will be spent on a new ammonia cooling system that will cost in the range of \$125,000," Horlacher said. "The cost for a new zamboni is slightly small but will still cost the district \$75,000."

Short term and long term steps are being taken by the board that heads the ice rink.

"Some of the improvements that are being made are that new carpet is being installed as well as a new TV, vending machines, and the overall appearance of the rink," said Vishnevetsky.

Long term steps that are being made include a recommended consulting engineering firm and a roof in the future but the rink will never be completely closed. Other steps include the possibility of outdoor seating. "The outdoor seating could provide money to pay for the repairs if the hockey team plays there, Vishnevetsky said.

"The only way the hockey team could play there is if a roof get put on top of the building because without the roof the ice usually gets soft spots from the sun, so it would be impossible to play a game," Clayton forward Chad Mehlman said. Not only the hockey players but also fans feel that an actual home rink would be beneficial.

"It would be a fun environment to play there, but



David Lutten

The Shaw Park ice rink goes under repair after months of being closed. Short term and long term steps are being taken to make repairs. The city hopes to eventually replace the entire roof of the building.

there could be some problems with the stands and ice," Vishnevetsky said.

"I think more people would go, because it's a lot closer and we could actually play in Clayton not some

other town," freshman Alex Breckenridge said.

"If a roof get put on the building the hockey team can really benefit from having more ideal practice times and also an actual home rink," Mehlman said. ☺

School District faces law suit

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

As parents vie for their students' education, Saint Louis' city schools loss of accreditation will be hitting home in coming weeks as the School District of Clayton (CSD) is sued.

The school district will be sued by parents Jane Turner, Susan Bruker, Gina Breitenfeld, and William Drendel for their children who currently are enrolled in Clayton schools as 'personal tuition students.' All four families live in St. Louis City, in districts recently deemed unaccredited by the state.

Director of Communications for the CSD, Chris Tennill is dealing directly with the case.

"Those four families have sued both the CSD and the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) to have their tuition paid by the St. Louis public schools," Tennill said. "The way the suit is actually worded is that they are suing Clayton to force us to send a bill to the city and then suing the city to force them to pay the bill."

However, the situation is a bit trickier than that: Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released even before the SLPS discreditation in April 2007 that, "State law (Section 167.131) gives students in an unaccredited district the opportunity to transfer to an accredited district in the same or an adjoining county. Accredited districts, however, have the authority to accept or reject non-resident students based on their overall policies and on their capacity...Each school district in St. Louis County must decide whether it will accept transfer students from the SLPS and how many additional students it will accept."

In addition, the SLPS would be footing the bill for tuition of any transfers from unaccredited schools to accredited districts. All twelve St. Louis County school districts, including Clayton, decided that they would not accept unaccredited transfers as was left in the air by DESE's statement.

"The parents believe that because the SLPS is unaccredited, that the statute [above] applies to their situation in attending CSD schools and that, even though they've been tuition students in the past, now the SLPS should pay for their tuition to attend here," Tennill said.

However, the plaintiff's attorney, Elkin L. Kistner with the Clayton firm Jones, Haywood, Bick, Kistner & Jones, finds the districts are in the wrong on this front.

"In 1993, the statute was amended to remove language that specifically indicated that accredited school districts had the discretion to refuse to participate and accept students from neighboring unaccredited districts," Kistner said in a Nov. 15 story by Paul Hampel in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "The statute now reads that no student will be denied the right to attend the school of his choice."

Kistner alleges that the CSD is showing discontinuities with who they accept from unaccredited school

districts as Clayton currently has nine students from Wellston (a school that has been unaccredited for two years) enrolled. In terms of why Clayton schools decided not to accept students of unaccredited school districts, Tennill maintains there are two big reasons.

"Firstly, the SLPS has been on record saying they won't pay the tuition for students to transfer," Tennill said. "Secondly, there is the issue of Special School District (SSD). SSD serves all St. Louis County schools and residents of the County pays property taxes into SSD to support that. Anyone who transfers from the city would not be paying those taxes. And SSD has said they will not provide services for these kids. How can you accept a potential group of city students who, if statistics hold, one in four will need those services? So they would be coming into a situation where you couldn't provide for those kids."

However, Tennill does understand the pressure the SLPS is under.

"Once you're a school district that loses accreditation, it's not a one year process to get back to accreditation. It's a slow, gradual process that you have to do bit by bit. But as long as you are taking small steps and moving forward, you're moving in the right direction."

In terms of the lawsuit as a whole, the CSD's role is to determine how much tuition the SLPS and the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis would potentially have to pay for the student's transfer.

"These students already enrolled as tuition students, some of them have been here for awhile," Tennill said. "Basically, they are filing their suit to get the city to take over the tuition bills they have been paying all along."

The statute DESE has put forth for tuition rates of transfers from unaccredited school districts offers a specific formula for calculating how much the SLPS would have to pay to the accredited school district. This is what the lawsuit requires the CSD gives to the SLPS. As for the students who are involved in the lawsuit, they will still attend Clayton schools paying tuition.

"It's business as usual," Tennill said. "Some of these kids are quite young, I wouldn't be surprised if they have any idea what is even going on. When this gets resolved, they'll either continue on as tuition students or getting credited back for what they paid."

It is yet to be determined if this case will set precedent for any future transfers from the unaccredited districts to accredited ones.

"There are differing opinions on whether this case just applies narrowly to these six students in question or if this is the watershed case that could establish case law and precedent on this issue which could make a difference in the future."

For CSD, this is just the beginning of a long process that could determine the future of education in the city and the county. All the Clayton community can do for now is to wait for future action. ☺

New class promotes leadership

[Helen Wiley]
Staff Reporter

You have just finished a group project in English class. The teacher tells the class that each group needs a representative to present their group's project. You want to be the spokesperson, but just don't have the courage to volunteer.

Another student takes the position and you are left yet again with no voice. At that moment, you would have done anything to be more outgoing.

Most people do not have the necessary skills to be good leaders, but last summer during summer school a class called Teen Leadership was presented for students. Substitute teacher coordinator Ryan Lunning taught the course and hopes it will be offered in the future as a regular class.

"The goal of the class is to show students how important character

is in their lives," Lunning said. "It gives students strategies to help them become more successful in all areas of their lives."

The Teen Leadership class is discussion based. All of the students are required to participate in group activities and share their personal opinions. The curriculum includes a course manual as well as quizzes, tests, speeches and projects.

Activities and discussions revolve around confidence, self-concept, social skills, responsibility, values and principles. "We have many class discussions about what makes a leader and examples of leaders in the world from the past until today," Lunning said.

"More than anything we try to educate each student as to the leadership skills we all possess," Lunning said. "As well as try to encourage them to use those skills in their everyday life."

Lunning is currently present-

ing the class before the CHS Leadership Council. If the course is approved it will be offered as a semester freshmen/sophomore elective and a junior/senior elective.

"We had 22 students take this class last summer and they seemed to have a positive experience," Lunning said. "I hope that will translate to CHS as well."

Sophomore Devonte Bell was one member of the Teen Leadership class this past summer.

"I think a lot of people would benefit from this class," Bell said. "I gained lessons that I can use in college or to get a good job."

For now the Teen Leadership class is not available to students during the school year, but by next year it could be. So the next time you don't have enough courage to take charge, remember that you could learn how to in the leadership class. ☺



Katie Weiss

From right: junior Caitlin Bladt, senior John McAfee and sophomore Luke Madson play their cellos during Orchestra class. Music students have the opportunity to apply for a new performing arts leadership award.

Performance award inspires

New award allows students the chance to get recognition for musical talent

[Simone Bernstein]
Staff Reporter

A new and innovative award has caught the eyes of numerous students hoping to add an impressive and unique glow to their CHS diploma. The Performing Arts Department waited many years to establish an award for students devoted to the arts. This new Performing Arts Leadership Students (PALS) encourages and allows all interested CHS students to incorporate performing arts into their studies.

The idea for the PALS award arrived through numerous lengthy discussions. The performing arts staff discussed the ideas of an award that would benefit the students throughout their lives.

"At the end of four years at Clayton we want students to learn how to be an educated consumer of the performing arts, an educated critique of the performing arts, a philanthropist, a supporter and volunteer of the performing arts and have an understanding of employment and career opportunities in the performing arts," said Kim Shelley, a music teacher at CHS.

The PALS award contains criteria and requirements that meet the goals of the performing arts teachers for students as they leave high school. These specific requirements include completing three credits of any performing arts class, attending a minimum of 15 events, of which 10 include specified types of live venues, being involved in two student-run musicals or 24-hour musicals, attending eight seminars, attending two PALS field trips, having a 3.5 GPA in the student's arts classes and volunteering 20 hours of arts service. The requirements may sound a little overwhelming, but they can easily be completed throughout four years of high school.

"Overall, the requirements do not seem very difficult," sophomore Nick Oliveri said. "Most of the requirements are tasks I usually complete throughout the year by performing with the MUNY Opera and attending performances throughout the St. Louis area on a regular basis."

Although this award is new, seniors this year are also eligible to complete the requirements and receive the award.

"This year they have minimized the criteria for seniors who are applying for the award," senior Sarah Zimmerman said. "Seniors only have to complete one third of the requirements on the list."

What makes this arts award different and attractive for CHS students? Everyone that is interested could strive to obtain this honor, since CHS has no limit for the number of awardees per year. There also is an end result to this three-year rigorous program, which includes a portfolio of all the students' work in the Performing Arts and a cord on their graduation robe.

"The portfolio is a powerful tool to use for college admissions," Shelley said. "Even if the student does not choose to major in the performing arts, the fact that they have such an extensive portfolio of their commitment to the performing arts will impress most college admissions."

Although waking up at regular hours on a few late start days during the year may seem ridiculous to students at CHS who joyfully take an extra hour of sleep, some students might be heading to one of four seminars this year, run by guest speakers with careers in the performing arts.

"Although we are only required to attend four seminars throughout high school, I plan on attending all of them," Oliveri said. "I look forward to going to the rest of the seminars because I enjoy learning about some of the positions and careers available in the performing arts field."

Although one of the four seminars occurred last month, three seminars are planned later this school year around the topics of freelancing, education directors, and being a booking agent.

"Until the first seminar I never thought of all the positions available for people interested in receiving a job in the performing arts," sophomore Alexa Boulton said. "It was interesting to listen to adults speak about their positions behind the scenes."

Throughout the year PALS will have field trips for students to go to live venues around the St. Louis area. The first PALS field trip is scheduled this December to see the musical "Kiss Me Kate." For more information on signing up for this trip or becoming involved in this three-year program students are recommended to contact any of the Performing Arts Faculty as soon as possible. ☺

'Halo 3' delivers killer game

[Fontasha Powell]
Editor

It is the year 2552 and humanity is at war with a horrifying alien civilization called the Covenant. This bellicose species sees humanity as a form of heresy against their religion, and will do anything to destroy mankind.

Although this situation sounds almost like a fantasy novel, it is in fact the story line of the popular game Halo, developed by Bungie Studios and published by Microsoft Game Studios. The companies recently released Halo 3 on Sept. 26, the final installment of a three-part series of video games about this combating the Covenant.

In fact, many CHS students, such as junior Alex Schneider, who have played Halo 3, consider themselves to be experienced gamers. Schneider enjoys playing videogames nightly because he loves the immersiveness of a fantasy, like driving rates at high speeds or surviving in a war zone.

"Halo 3 is a return to greatness," Schneider said. "It's a return to the pleasures that people had with the original Halo and Halo 2, and combining the best of both games and bring it exclusively to Xbox 360."

Schneider also believes that Halo 3 serves two different purposes, including game play and profit.

"Halo 3 concludes the story arc of Halo. Fans across the globe finished the story mode of Halo 2 to be disappointed by a cliffhanger," Schneider said. "Halo also makes the Xbox division of Microsoft profitable because billion of dollars were spent on the successful, although barely domesticated original Xbox."

Sophomore Danny Steinberg agrees with Schneider in that Halo 3 is an enjoyable game to play. Steinberg plays videogames a couple of hours a week, both with friends and alone.

"Halo 3 is the final installation in one of the most widely played videogame series," Steinberg said. "It also is one of my favorite videogames."

Steinberg also believes that overall, Halo 3 lived up to his expectations. On the first day that Steinberg Halo 3 on the launch date from amazon.com, he played through the entire first level.

On Sept. 27, Halo 3 sold 4.2 million copies worldwide on its launch date, and many believe that successful can be attributed to the great weapons, graphics and plot line.

"Halo 3 lived up to my expectations and more," Steinberg said. "The whole game outshined its predecessors and is a great source of entertainment."



Handout/mct

Junior Kevin Lin plays videogames only on the weekends and also believes that Halo 3 had many great aspects.

"My favorite part of the game was the awesome graphics," Lin said. "Also, they brought back the assault rifle from the original Halo. The assault rifle is a machine gun that has about 32 shots and if you aim for the head, you can get a really quick kill."

Steinberg agrees with Lin that the assault rifle was good and thinks that the best aspects of Halo 3 range include its graphics, new weapons and plot.

"In addition to quite a few new weapons, the detail in the graphics of each individual enemy or inanimate object is great," Steinberg said. "I also think that the plot has significant more depth than that of the second Halo. One thing that sets it apart from most other shooter game is that it doesn't involve that much strategy like finding cover to hide behind and reviving allies. Instead, Halo 3 revolves around shooting as quickly as you can without getting shot."

On the day of release, three different editions of Halo 3 were for sale. The first was just a single disc

packaged in a translucent green box, priced at \$60. The second package came with a few extra features on the disc, priced at \$70, and the Limited Collector's Edition, a metal container with a game disc and a booklet with in-game artwork was priced at \$120.

However, in addition to an actual game disc, Xbox 360, which costs \$349.99 was required to play Halo 3.

At first Lin was disappointed that he had to buy a new game system in order to continue the series, but found that the game was worth the price.

"At first, I thought that it sucked that only halo 3 could be played on xbox 360, but overall, the graphics on Xbox 360 are better. Also, newer and cooler games are being created for the 360."

In contrast, senior Chris Motoki thought that Halo 3 was a huge disappointment because he expected so more out of a high profile company like Bungie.

"It's a good game, I'll give you that," Motoki said. "But unless you're a die-hard fan, you won't think that it's the best game ever made. In the end, it is a good game, but there are other games out there equally as good."

Other players found faults in the game as well, however they believed that the disappointments were minimal. Steinberg thinks that the biggest disappoint is the multiplayer maps.

"I have really enjoyed most of the maps from the previous two installments in the series," Steinberg said. "I especially miss one in particular, Blood Gulch/Coagulation, which was present in the first two but not in this one."

Junior Kevin Rusparsky plays videogames nightly and believes that one of the biggest disappointments of the game was the ending. If the game is completed on the "Legendary" difficult level, at the end of the final fight scene, the main player essentially sacrifices himself as is left floating, half-severed in space. Although Rusparsky cried at the ending of Halo 3, he thought the ending could leave room for a sequel, and believes that the ending of the videogame is able to teach society an important lesson.

"Halo 3 epitomizes the notion of self-sacrifice, because in order to save mankind, you have to sacrifice yourself."

Many of the experienced gamers also believe that no other game will live up to the success of the Halo series.

"To be honest, I haven't really heard much hype about any other game for about 8 or 9 years, since Pokemon," Steinberg said. "Halo is definitely better than Pokemon. I don't think that any other game will ever compare." ☺

'Gossip Girls' glimmers

[Taylor Stone]
Staff Reporters

"I bet you're wondering what Gossip Girl is doing up so early. Truth is, I never went to bed. Why waste precious time dreaming when waking life is so much better?"

This one sentence seems to epitomize the upper East-side Manhattan-esc mood of the new hit television show "Gossip Girl." But though the show sports 'high class' aspects like glitzy parties sprinkled with designer dresses, there is more to be discovered in this new series.

Created by Josh Schwartz (the brain behind "The OC") and inspired by the New York Times bestselling series "Gossip Girl" by Cecily Von Ziegesar, this show was greeted with high anticipation.

Long before the show premiered I had been an avid reader of the "Gossip Girl" book series. Though I usually think that original novel versions are better than a film or television series, I occasionally pronounce one better than the authentic. This is one of those rare cases.

'Gossip Girl' follows a crowd of privileged it-girls and boys in New York City. Their lives are filled with undeniable lavishness, and bursting with scandal and intrigue. The CW has launched this idea to hopefully replace legends like "The OC" and "Dawson's Creek."

Serena van der Woodsen returns to New York City from an alleged stint at boarding school, which triggers trouble with former friends. Blair Waldorf ignores and then cat-fights, with her former BFF, for Waldorf's boyfriend, Nate. Viewers soon find out that Serena had a secret affair with Nate before leaving. All of this and

more is reported by the show's mysterious narrator, 'Gossip Girl' in each episode.

True, much of the show is comprised of the brilliantly lit buildings of New York City and following almost ridiculously made up girls and model look-a-like boys. However, this luminous scenery is a character in itself that adds a vital temperament for the entire show.

Despite "Gossip Girl's" obvious dependence on scenery and cinematography, its characters surprisingly show an undeniable abundance of depth and development. Serena van der Woodsen, played by Blake Lively, appears at first to be your average blonde and beautiful TV actress, but she portrays the refreshing complexity of her character very well. Dan Humphrey, played by Penn Badgley, is not even close to elite, but superbly combines humor and depth to his character. Other promising talents include Leighton Meester as catty Blair and newcomer Taylor Momsen as shy Jenny Humphrey.

Even the story line that the characters are painted across is mostly enthralling. This can be expected because some of the plot is taken from the book series, but there are still some innovative developments that shine. One would not expect to find such themes as class distinction, familial loyalty, and inner exploration so early in a new show, but they are wonderfully present all the same. Surprises fill each episode, which leads viewers craving more.

Dawn Ostroff, the CW network's president of entertainment seemed to agree when she said, "People everywhere people are talking about 'Gossip Girl,' and we believe this show will continue to build audience as it builds buzz."

Despite great promise in this glamorous new series, only time will tell if it can measure up to the renowned elites of television. ☺



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Soulja Boy cranks record

[Maddie Harned]

Editor

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past two months you probably have listened to "Crank That" by Soulja Boy. If the name of the song alone doesn't ring a bell, maybe the lyrics, "Watch me crank it / watch me roll / watch me crank that soulja boy / then superman that oh" will spark something.

Soulja Boy, a.k.a DeAndre Way, is a sixteen-year-old rapper/producer hailing from Batesville, Mississippi. While most kids his age were preoccupied with homework, Soulja Boy inked a contract with Interscope Records. And so began the Soulja Boy phenomenon.

In Sept. 2007, his single "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

His first album named "Souljaboytellem.com" was released under Interscope Records on Oct. 2, 2007. Yes, the title is a blatant marketing attempt to bring attention to Soulja Boy's website (and not to mention all the Soulja Boy products sold on it too).

However, after the tremendous success of his first single, many critics have already deemed Soulja Boy as the latest fad in a long line of one-hit-wonder rappers. Those critics may just have a point.

"Souljaboytellem.com" is repetitive and predictable, with each song's chorus is made of a single phrase.

For example, the third track entitled "Sidekick" repeats the word sidekick seemingly over 100 times. It's safe to say if one was to eat a cupcake every time the word "sidekick" is used in the song, one would have an enormous stomach ache and would probably never eat cupcakes again. To "Sidekick's" credit, despite using about 12 words in the song, the beat is an exciting blend of low and high-pitched computer sounds.

Each of the remaining songs become repetitious, including the fifth song on the CD, "Bapes," which describes Soulja Boy's favorite shoes, his Nike Bathin' Apes. He describes his beloved footwear in devoted detail, "Green, white, black inside these / super clean

Bathin' Apes / my shoes like my chain / shine hard they might hurt ya face."

Despite its annoying repetition, "Souljaboytellem.com" features a plethora of hot beats tailor made to make the listener want to, well, crank that.

"Donk," the seventh track on the CD stands out with its creative use of snare drums mashed with aggressive rapping from Soulja Boy.

Another stand out beat is found in "Let Me Get Em." Highly computerized sounds led by a strong base line and interesting drum bits make the song solid.

The most unpredictable song on "Souljaboytellem.com" is the random R&B crooner, "Soulja Girl." However, the song lacks in both the lyrics and beat department. "Soulja Girl's" smooth rhythm is a rather bland and completely contradicts the rest of the club-banging rap beats found on the rest of the album. Nevertheless, "Soulja Boy" should be commended for at least trying something musically different from the rest of the songs on his exasperatingly predictable CD.

Still, the crown and jewel of Soulja Boy's body of work is the mega-hit "Crank That (Soulja Boy)." The song's fun lyrics and extremely catchy beat and hook make "Crank That" the best song on the entire album.

Just about every song on "Souljaboytellem.com" repeats its title an ungodly amount of times, which makes the listener want to switch to the next track. Overall, the album is more predictable than a bellyache after eating a White Castle crave case.

More than anything else, Soulja Boy is a marketing scheme. He undoubtedly is a rapper, but his actual body of music is nowhere near the realm of most current rappers today.

Soulja Boy is not the next Kanye West because he lacks any other possible smash hit songs to back up his enormously marketable persona. Yet despite having a strong presence on the mic, Soulja Boy does not have the charisma found in rappers such as The Game and Lil' Wayne to guarantee him staying power in the music industry. ☺



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'AMERICAN GANGSTER' UNITES MYTH, TRUTH AND MORALITY IN FAST-PACED FILM

[Dakin Sloss]

Senior Managing Editor

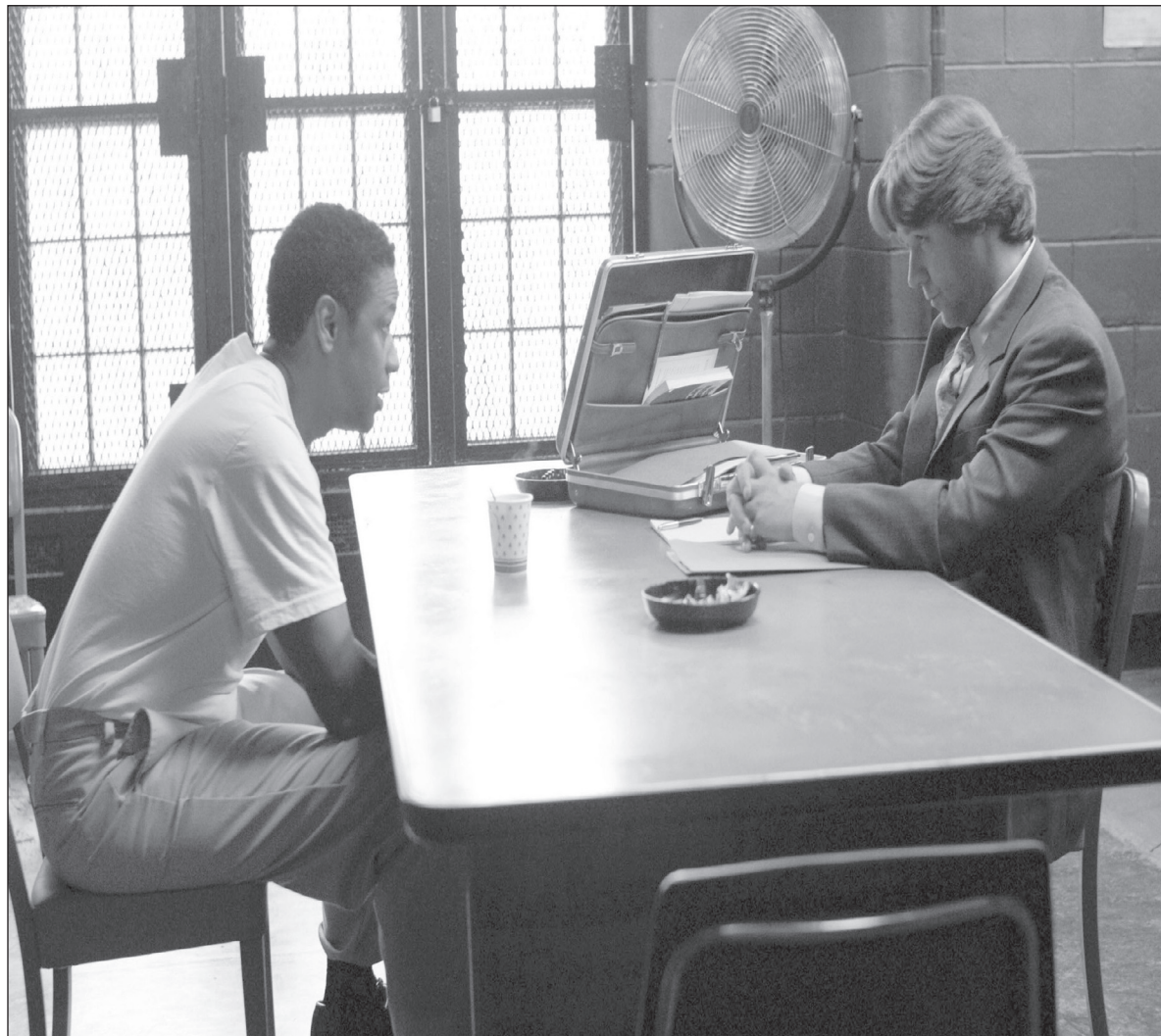
Dope deals, crooked cops, the struggle for power and sudden public shootings all appear in "American Gangster," but the most exciting aspect of the film is that all of those things actually happened to 1960s' Harlem heroin dealer Frank Lucas.

The movie follows the meteoric rise of Lucas (Denzel Washington) during the drug addiction years of New York City. He grew up, as a rural boy without education in the South; yet became one of the richest and most powerful men in the country.

After working for the dominant crime kingpin of Harlem, Lucas assumes the role, crafting an ingenious plan to make millions. He imports heroin directly from Southeast Asia, taking advantage of the U.S. military presence in Vietnam to ship his product home. Thus, he is able to sell purer dope for lower prices, beating out the Italian mob. This unlikely tale of a black man's success in the mafia world makes for a captivating screenplay.

Despite the thrilling storyline, the plot is not the most thrilling component. Rather, the conflicted nature of the leading characters, Lucas, and the cop trying to catch him, Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe), serves as the driving drama for the movie. Both stick out in their respective professions for their unique combination of ethics and immorality. Lucas' job consists of robbing, killing, bribing and selling, yet because of Washington's superb performance, viewers feel tremendous sympathy for this classic gangster. Roberts works among dirty cops who sell dope themselves and accept bribes, yet he turns in a million dollars in cash instead of taking the money. At the same time, he seduces women, fails to provide a father figure, and spends his time with criminal friends.

Both Crowe and Washington showcase excellent acting, uniting action and character to create believable and interesting portraits. Washington perfectly captures Lucas' hardworking and down-to-earth approach in a world of fancy show-offs. Instead of be-



Frank Lucas (Washington) and Richie Roberts (Crowe) discuss the consequences of Lucas' drug dealing business in the critically acclaimed thriller "American Gangster"

coming a playboy, Lucas continues to live a modest life in many respects, rising early and attending church

every Sunday. His downfall begins when he finds true love. The love story also adds another dimension to

the movie, but her purchase for him of an expensive outfit, begins Roberts' thorough investigation of Lucas. As Lucas shoots rivals in cold blood, just to gain a reputation, inflicts damage upon thousands of Harlem youth while selling dope, and generally wrecks havoc upon everyone around him, I still pitied him. Viewers will feel sympathy because of Washington's portrayal of Lucas as charming, friendly and clever, despite his many shortcomings.

Crowe composes a similarly balanced character. Throughout the movie, it is clear that Roberts is upstanding as a policeman and avoids the various dirty activities that his fellow cops partake in. He will not accept bribes, cover for his partner's crimes or stand by his best friend, a criminal. Meanwhile, he is engaged in a battle for custody of his child. In the custody case's conclusion, Crowe's acting creates a moving scene. Furthermore, Crowe's sense of humor contributes to the film. He mixes this drama and humor with his brilliant detective side and also adds in the flaw of womanizing to create a likable, yet imperfect man struggling to do the right thing.

Ridley Scott, director of "American Gangster" also puts forth an extraordinary effort. He manages complex issues of race, crime, class, drugs, violence and morality, instead of focusing on the action of a crime film. He could have made the error of just creating a thrilling movie, but he avoided the temptation. The movie does contain its fair share of exciting and dramatic scenes that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats, but my favorite part was not the gunplay. I appreciated his creation of parallel multidimensional characters.

Because of his directional focus, I wanted both Lucas and Roberts to succeed in their respective tasks, but the dramatic tension is inherent in the fact that they cannot both win, because they have contrary tasks.

Thus, Scott, Washington and Crowe combine to produce a truly first rate and compelling film that provoked my thoughts, excited, inspired, moved and entertained me, a rare combination.

I strongly recommend "American Gangster", one of the best movies I have ever seen. ☺



Cate Blanchett, starring as Queen Elizabeth I of England, sits upon her throne in the thriller, "Elizabeth: The Golden Age".

'Elizabeth' thrills, but lacks meaningful message

[Maddy Bullard]

Staff Reporter

The movie "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" was not as golden as the age it depicted. Although the acting was in parts piercing and engaging, and while the overall plot was accurate, minor details and cliché plotlines tarnished the film's quality.

At the outset of the film, Queen Elizabeth I of England (Cate Blanchett) is facing many problems, both within her country and outside of it. Her cousin, Mary (Samantha Morton), a Catholic, is confined to a castle in Scotland, where she attempts to plot Elizabeth's assassination using a group of Jesuits and other Catholics within her court. Elizabeth, however, is mostly busy concentrating on Philip, King of Spain (Jordi Mollà), who is also a Catholic rival of Elizabeth's.

Meanwhile, Sir Walter Raleigh (Clive Owen) visits Elizabeth at court, and she and her lady-in-waiting, Bess (Abbie Cornish), are enraptured by his tales of the sea and his journey to the New World. Elizabeth is interested in more than his fanciful tales however, and keeps him at court rather than granting him permission to return to his travels. After an attempted assassination, a beheading, a forbidden love triangle and an epic battle at sea, all is well in Elizabeth's court.

Three of the main characters are Elizabeth (Cate Blanchett), Raleigh (Clive Owen), and Walsingham (Geoffrey Rush). Blanchett was very strong, and even overcame the petty romantic triangle that the writers put in. She portrayed the Queen as a mix of strong and feeble, hardheaded and softly feminine. During the scenes when Blanchett depicted the difficult decisions a queen must make, she appeared to be aptly beleaguered, while during the final battle she portrayed a warrior with nerves of steel. Blanchett was, overall, very interesting to watch.

Owen did make his character interesting to look at, but that was about all. He did nothing for the over-

all development of his character and was a bit flat. A few of the scenes involved dialogue between Cornish and Owen, and even the younger actress managed to eclipse the older one, while Blanchett was completely out of his league. He did do a good job of playing the adventuresome rogue, fitting to his part, and portrayed the forbidden nature of his relationship with the Queen well. The scenes in which Owen did have a lot of dialogue were less than satisfactory, mostly due to the cliché scripting.

Rush shone as Walsingham, creating just the right mix of sneaky, manipulative and righteous. He was very good at appearing omniscient and wise in the film, and also did a good job of showing a more vulnerable side to his character when he begged for mercy from the Queen because of a miscalculation that ended in battle.

The tone of the film was very fast moving and action-packed, but the individual scenes sometimes appeared slow and tedious. The fast pace was achieved by switching from setting to setting - to the palace, then to Mary's prison, then to the Jesuit hideout, then onto the battlefield. However, the scenes themselves, such as when Raleigh was describing his travels to Elizabeth (in an attempt at a crushingly powerful script), or when Mary was planning her assassination, were quite monotonous and occasionally difficult to follow.

I would recommend this film to moviegoers who don't know or care too much about Queen Elizabeth. For those expert fanatics, this movie is not for you, because while the big events are accurate, the portrayal of some smaller details was sketchy at best. Additionally, if you like to doze off during films, this should not be your pick because the details are difficult to pick up if you aren't on your guard. However, those looking for an action film with a strong female lead, some supporting eye candy and a bit of old-school romance will not be disappointed. ☺

'Lars and the Real Girl' combines humor and perception in darkly comical film

[Kelly Moffitt]

Co-Editor in Chief

I've been burned before. And not in the way you think. I've been burned by moviegoer naiveté; innocently walking into movies I know nothing about. So, as I walked into "Lars and the Real Girl" a few weeks ago, I walked in brandishing the sword of 'at least I have good snacks.' Little did I know, the movie would sweep me off my feet.

Directed by newcomer Craig Gillespie, this film is original, touching, and possesses a few twists and turns along the way that leave the audience grinning in spite of themselves.

Lars (Ryan Gosling) keeps to himself. Sometimes awkward, sometimes hermit-like, his family and the small northern town he lives in attempt to bring him out of his shell. One day he surprises his brother and expecting wife by bringing home his new girlfriend, Bianca, for dinner. Normal meet-the-family rituals ensue except for one small factor- Bianca isn't actually real, she's a sex-doll Lars ordered on-line from Brazil.

And you thought your family was awkward around new dates.

Lars isn't looking for sex; however, he actually wants a relationship with this plastic life-size figurine. It is revealed that Lars is actually suffering from the mental disorder of delusions.

Beautifully written by acclaimed producer-writer Nancy Oliver, known for the show "Six Feet Under," this indie film is delightful.

Despite its "chick-flick" title, this movie is unbelievable poignant, offering new views of society and

turning the adage "it takes a village to raise a child" on its head.

Managing a-la "Little Miss Sunshine" to combine the comic with the tragic of everyday life, this film manages to take a completely misunderstood "sub-topic" of our culture and make it funny without making fun.

With a small character spectrum, this film relies on impeccable acting quality found in all three main characters. Gosling, who (if his genius wasn't obvious in "Half Nelson" and "Fracture") outdoes himself, portrays Lars utterly realistically in such an outrageous situation. From the dry-eye syndrome blinking, to the attachment to his baby blanket, to his hermit-like aversion to people, Gosling tackles it all.

As well, Gosling is surrounded by two others who compliment his capabilities and shine in their own right, who play his brother, Gus (Paul Schneider) and his wife, Karin (Emily Mortimer).

Mortimer, known for her spectacular performances in "Match Point" and "Lovely and Amazing" especially surprises as she takes on her motherly, heart-wrenching character (and really throws a good tackle).

The most touching and moving part of this film however is the portrayal of the community in which he lives. From the old women of the church, to the hairdresser, to the receptionist at his job, they prove their worth as the small people in life that really make us know our worth.

With an enchanting soundtrack by David Torn and stark, cold imagery this film didn't release me from its grasp for days. For a girl wary of blind dates with the movie theater "Lars and the Real Girl" was one to make into a lasting relationship. ☺



Gus (Schneider) and his wife Karin (Mortimer) stare in bewilderment as Lars (Gosling) cuts up the meat for his new "girlfriend," Bianca, who is actually a sex-doll imported from Brazil. Lars, suffering from a mental disorder of delusions, believes Bianca is a real person and is looking to share a meaningful relationship with her.

Off-beat characters amuse audiences in 'The Office'

[Nina Oberman]
Staff Reporter

Thursday nights on NBC have their prima donna in "The Office". Hilarious conflicts and brilliant acting come together to create an unforgettable comedy.

The winner of last year's *Emmy* for Outstanding Comedy Series, "The Office" documents the lives of office workers at a paper company in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In Season Four, Steve Carell continues to shine as the ridiculously fatuous Michael Scott, regional manager of Dunder Mifflin, Inc. Michael deems the office "cursed" in the season premiere after hitting Meredith, an employee, with his car.

"I'm not superstitious, but...I am a little stitious," he says.

After exploring the religious beliefs of every person in the office, he decides to hold a charity fun run raising money for rabies research, a disease that Meredith discovers she has while in the hospital.

"Myth: three Americans die every year from rabies," Michael says before beginning the run. "Fact: four Americans die every year from rabies."

He goes on to present a \$340 check made out to "Science" to a stripper dressed as a nurse.

Michael's false compassion and obvious desire for self-preservation are put forward brilliantly by Carell, who is able to appear as a sincere and earnest idiot.

Ryan (B.J. Novak), who was previously a temp in the office, returns this season as Michael's boss. When he introduces new technology into the business model, Michael feels as though he is being challenged, and the conflict that ensues between the two characters is hilarious.

Michael once again demonstrates his ability to blow things incredibly out of proportion.

"We had a foreign exchange student when I was young," Michael recounts. "And we called him my brother, and that's what I thought he was. Um, then he went home to what is formerly Yugoslavia, taking all of my blue jeans with him. And I had to spend the entire winter in shorts. That is what Ryan is like: A fake brother who steals your jeans."

While on his way to give a gift basket to a client, a strategy that Michael believes will show Ryan the benefit of people-to-people business, Michael drives his car into a lake under the direction of his GPS system. He blames his misfortune on technology.

"In the end, life and business are about human connections," he says. "And computers are about trying to murder you in a lake. And to me, the choice is easy."

Carell delivers his lines with perfect deadpan humor and never fails to make viewers laugh with every stupid sentence that comes out of his mouth.

The "mockumentary" style of "The Office" allows the show to feel more natural rather than forced. From the awkward comments to the uncomfortable silences, the situations are relatable for any viewer.

The relationship between Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) and Pam Beesley (Jenna Fischer) is especially credible. The two characters couldn't be more meant for each other, and yet they could never quite seem to make it work.

After three exhausting seasons in which Pam was engaged, then called off a wedding with Roy (David Denman), and Jim went through several other girlfriends, Pam and Jim have finally—finally—gotten together. Fans rejoiced after the season premiere, in which they officially announced that they were dating.

Ryan's new job and new look generate admiration among many of the workers. Kevin (Brian Baumgartner) speculates that Ryan could probably get any girl he wants. He is proven wrong, however, when Ryan asks Pam out.

"Guess he can't get any girl he wants," Jim says mockingly.

Jim disappoints in the fifth episode, however, when he meets up with Karen, his ex-girlfriend.

"I am going to go, because of, um, traffic," he says, instead of coming right out and telling her that he is much happier with Pam than he ever was with her. Once again, however, the exchange was realistic.

Along with Michael, Ryan, Jim, and Pam, several other characters have stood out this season.

Andy (Ed Helms), the eager sales representative, has a perfect quotable moment when he forgets what product the Kit-Kat jingle is selling.

"Break me off a piece of that... apple sauce... Chrysler car...football cream...Fancy Feast."

Kelly (Mindy Kaling) is fantastic as Ryan's desperate ex. After arriving at work dressed in a hot pink silk polka dot dress, she asks unknowingly if Ryan is coming by.

When he visits, she claims that she is pregnant so that he will go out to dinner with her. And, as always, there is Dwight (Rainn Wilson), Michael's faithful sidekick. He is back just as zany as before. This season, he has opened his family beet-farm up to "Agro-Tourism."



John Krasinski as Jim Halpert, from left, Rainn Wilson as Dwight Schrute, Jenna Fischer as Pam Beesley, B.J. Novak as Ryan Howard, Steve Carell as Michael Scott star in NBC's popular sitcom, "The Office."

"Agro-tourism is a lot more than a bed-and-breakfast," he explains. "It consists of tourists coming to a farm, showing them around, giving them a bed, giving them breakfast."

Dwight's strange projects and wacky anecdotes are un-topped by any other character.

"The Office" has not failed to live up to viewers' ex-

pectations in Season Four. Last year the show won the *Emmy* for Outstanding Comedy Series, and this year the Screen Actors Guild for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

As viewers continue to tune in for side-splitting comedy, there is no telling what successes "The Office" may have in store. ☺

Quirky new show offers spin on classic fairy tale

[Colleen Layton]
Staff Reporter

Guy wants girl, guy gets girl and through some trouble guy keeps girl and they live happily ever; sounds like a fairy tale.

A fairy tale is not exactly what ABC's "Pushing Daisies" is, but it does have some of the same aspects found in the beloved "Sleeping Beauty" or "Snow White". Yet, there are some major differences between this primetime television show and its storybook comparisons.

For example, Prince Charming doesn't have to keep his hands off the princess. So yeah, fairy tale

could work, but so could drama, comedy and murder mystery. If you like any or all of these genres, you should probably tune in on Wednesday nights for this curious new show.

"Pushing Daisies" is the story of a pie maker named Ned, played by Lee Pace. Through a series of playfully dark flashbacks, it is explained that Ned has the death touch. Anything deceased will be brought back to life for one minute with the first tap of his finger, and go back to being dead with the next.

After his mother dies, he fails to keep her alive and Ned is swept off to boarding schools only to become a recluse of sorts. Now, all grown

up and in the present day, Ned becomes a maker of pies and works with a detective to find murder victims, revive them and solve the cases before their minute is up and he touches them yet again.

This risky job is how he comes across his childhood sweetheart, Chuck, and is swept into a series of entertaining, bittersweet and charming adventures all because he can't bring himself to kill her again.

The thing that draws me into the show so much is the sheer quirkiness it possesses. It's not just quirky, it's uber quirky. There are characters breaking into song and dance, buildings resembling pie

and cars that run on flowers. The colors are eccentric to boot as well as the costumes and the makeup; it is like being pulled into some sort of pastel fantasy with a dash of doom and gloom.

Yet, through all the chaos, giggles and love triangles, when it is time for Ned to get down to business, the mood does a 180 degree turn. Sets become dark and damp, the music gets a tad eerie and the criminal is drop dead frightening, which illustrates how well rounded the show really is.

To make a well rounded show, it takes well suited actors. By far, the largest scene stealer is Kristen Chenoweth. Sometimes, I wonder

if she gets too much air time but one has to admit, she is a pretty good actress.

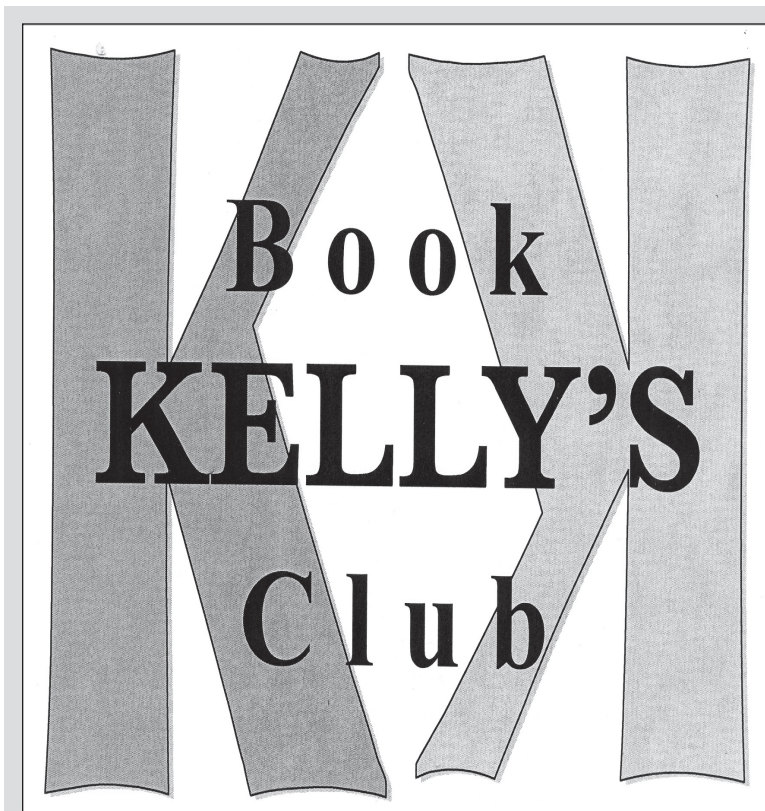
Her deep love for the pie maker is complex and her background (she was a jockey!) could use some delving into but do we really need to spend more than 30 seconds of valuable air time to listen to her sing about her hopeless love for Ned as seen in the second episode? Yes, she is a great singer, but this show isn't really a musical. It was cute; now let's move on...

My personal favorite characters are the aunts played by Swosie Kurtz and Ellen Greene who pull off their parts perfectly, from their facial expressions to their delivery

of lines. Seeming to have popped straight out of a Roald Dahl story, the aunts are described as having identical matching personality disorders and retired synchronized swimmers who currently have a vast collection of birds. Now, I wouldn't mind seeing them a little more often.

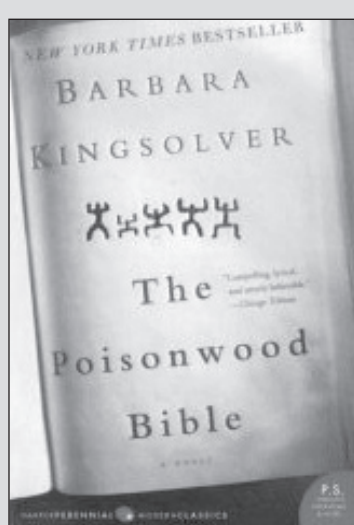
Overall, it is a wonderful new addition to TV and if someone wants a break from hard core shows like "Lost" or "Desperate Housewives", I would highly recommend this sweet piece of pie.

I just wonder how long the writers can keep this creative story line going, even after the writers' strike ends. ☺

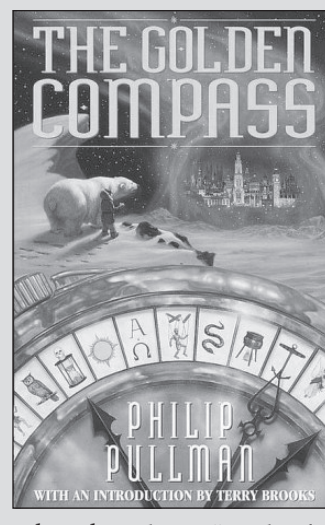


[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

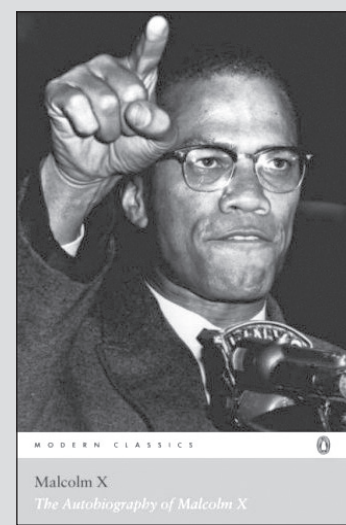
In the realm of books there are many kinds: the ones you read for school, the ones you read for pleasure, the ones you read under the covers with a flashlight, the ones you read to "look smart." And then there are the ones that change your life. These books are a rare but spectacular breed, the likes of which I have only seen a few times so far in my life. The perfection of one of these books is like being allowed to bask in the sun for a day without feeling guilty for whatever work your shirking. But the best part about great books is that one can experience this feeling over and over again, without spending the money on that ticket to Tahiti. Here are some of the books that have changed me, molded me, shaped me...



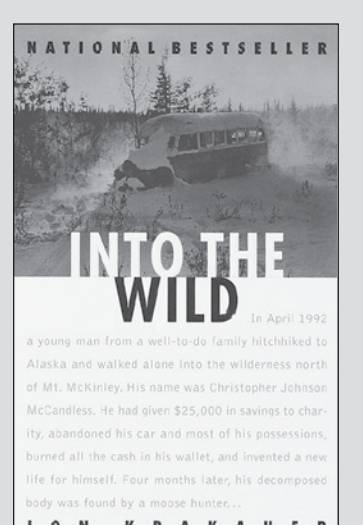
From the moment I first had this novel read to me in the third grade, I knew I would someday want to travel to Africa. Since I have returned from Mozambique and re-read this hefty 576 page novel about a Baptist missionary family who travels to the Belgian Congo to live there and help the natives in 1959. Kingsolver's intricate characterization of the father Nathan Price, a Baptist preacher, his wife, and his four daughters who travel with him is poignant and believable. Though the novel is at times long-winded, the end result brought my perspective of the world from being that of my neighborhood to that of an interconnected global community. This story, both tragic and meaningful, brings me to tears, laughter, and quiet reflection over and over again.



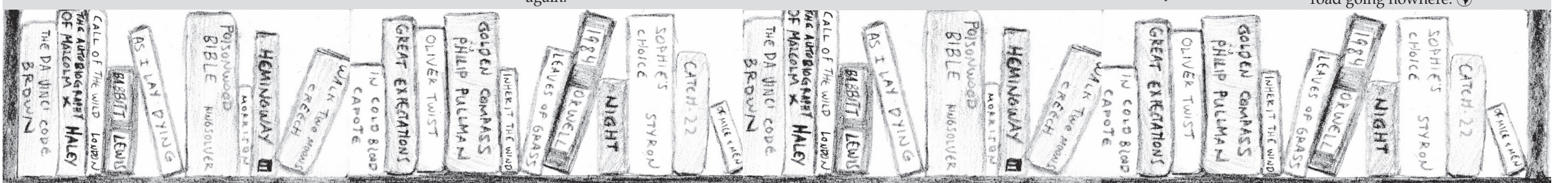
Though I love "Lord of the Rings" and "Harry Potter" with all my heart, neither compare to the intense experience of reading "The Golden Compass." I was mesmerized both times by Pullman's ability to take complex philosophical quandaries and explicate them in an imaginary world. "The Golden Compass" is only the first in Pullman's trilogy, "His Dark Materials" and features worlds parallel to our own. Demons, witches, and talking bears abound in this epic tale centering on Lyra Belacqua, a spunky youngster caught in the midst of a fantastic and complex conspiracy. Unlike most fantasy, however, this novel only improves with the age of the reader. It was the springboard for my fascination with the fantasy/science fiction genre and exhibits the glory of a perfectly executed piece of philosophical fiction.



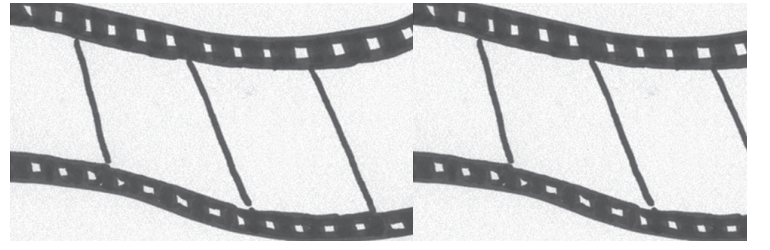
I had always heard people talk about "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" with an air of reverence. I've got to tell you: when I first started reading the "autobiography," really ghostwritten by Alex Haley, for my author's project last year, I didn't see what all the buzz was about. But after reading about the life of one of the most misrepresented figures in our society, Malcolm X, my entire view had changed. I had always been taught Malcolm X was a man to be feared, that he was the "bad civil rights leader." But after reading the autobiography, I see him in an entirely different light. I learned, once again, the power of a good journalist and writer to change the perceptions of his or her readers. Malcolm X—what a powerful, tormented, and extraordinary man.



My first experience with this novel was in the fourth grade as I went for my first Newberry Award at Meremac Elementary School. The story revolves around 13-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle who journeys west with her grandparents on a pilgrimage to the place where her mother mysteriously died. On the way, her grandmother demands a story to pass the cross-country car ride with, "Tell me a story, spin me a yarn..." and off the novel winds—on a road of intersecting stories, tales, and downright fables. I have read the novel at least once every year since that first time back in the library tree at Meremac. Every time I read "Walk Two Moons" I find something new to connect to within it. It is a must read for everyone who has ever felt lost on a road going nowhere. ☺



Clayton Classics



“The Sunshine Boys” tells timeless and unorthodox story of friendship

[Abby Eisenberg]
Editor

“The Sunshine Boys” is a tale of love, riches and stardom. Imagining a Brad Pitt-esque pretty boy actor cheesily depicting a dramatic tale of an over-sexed, over-drugged life of a rock star? You are wrong. Two grumpy old men, Walter Matthau and George Burns, star in this classic 1976 comedy. Screenplay by Neil Simon and directed by Herbert Ross, “The Sunshine Boys” is a must-see classic for all lovers of the uproarious antics of cantankerous old gentlemen.

Willy Clark (Matthau) and Al Lewis (Burns) are two retired vaudeville stars that could not be more different.

At the start of the movie, viewers learn that Willy and Al were retired vaudeville stars. Al has retired to New Jersey to live with his daughter and grandchildren. His afternoon excitement includes napping and tea, never getting too much wilder than that. Willy, however, lives in complete squalor in his wreck of a Manhattan apartment, still scouting out odd jobs (not very successfully) through his nephew and agent, Ben Clark (Richard Benjamin).

Ben is approached with an offer for a job for Willy. The station offers a large sum of money if and only if Willy and Al perform their famous “doctor sketch” on stage- together. This is great news, considering Willy

is quickly falling into a hole of debt without any jobs coming in for him. The catch is that Willy and Al hate each other. Well, they do not hate each other. As Al says, “I don’t hate him, I simply can’t stand each him.” The rest of the movie is ruckus caused by this proposition and the two old enemies trying to work together one last time is. Burns’ dry and straight humor with little frill or even smile makes him the perfect actor for the straight-laced and professional, yet brilliantly hilarious Lewis. Matthau is the perfect complement with his over the top acting, and overly-expressive and crazy voices and facial expressions to go along with his sharp and quick one-liners. Post Oscar from the Odd Couple, Matthau is a seasoned pro at playing cranky old men, and is great at capturing the essence of the funniest of our old, Jewish comical grandfathers.

In the end, as the two come together, they are reminded of their valued friendship and Willy admits, “Oh, you a funny man, Al, a pain in the ass but a funny man.” The end produces a warm message of the value of having a good friend, without descending to the cheesy pitfalls of many movies; the two men by keep their dignity, still go their separate ways and bickering with each other the whole way.

Walter Matthau, though not up to par looks-wise with the Brad Pitts of the entertainment world, is the perfect star for the perfectly classic feel-good movie, “The Sunshine Boys.” ☺



“My Fellow Americans” satirizes American political corruption

[Leah Eby]
Editor

Sing to the tune of “Hail to the Chief”: “Hail to the chief, if you don’t, I’ll have to kill you. I am the chief, so you better watch your step, you bastards,” and “Hail to the chief, he’s the chief and he needs hailing. He is the chief, so everybody hail like crazy.”

These parodies of the official presidential anthem are sung by actors James Garner and Jack Lemmon, respectively, in the satirical presidential movie, “My Fellow Americans.” Rightfully dubbed “a comedy about life, liberty and the pursuit of two ex-presidents,” the film, directed by Peter Segal, could not be more true to these words. Released in 1996, the year of the presidential election between democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican Bob Dole, the movie clearly satires both politics and politicians.

Both Garner and Lemmon portray fictional former presidents who hate each other almost as much as they hate being out of the Oval Office. Garner plays democratic President Matt Douglas, while Lemmon plays his arch rival and previous republican opposition, President Russell Kramer.

Bitter about their expulsions from the White House, both Douglas and Kramer attempt to regenerate their political appeal in a number of comical ways. While Kramer has great success in writing cookbooks, Douglas has difficulty detailing his uneventful presidency in his first book. However, Kramer’s revival plan is not all triumph. In one instance, he presents an award to a Japanese man and ends up dancing with a Panda mascot while the press snaps pictures. Despite their humorous efforts, neither can regain the status they once had.

In the midst of their attempted political revivals, Douglas and Kramer are summoned to attend the funeral of a political figure. The two rivals are coincidentally transported to the funeral on the same Air Force One plane, and thus begins their journey together. Soon thereafter, both discover that the current presi-

dent, William Haney, took kickbacks during Kramer’s presidency and is attempting to shift the blame to Kramer. Once Haney, played by Dan Aykroyd, realizes that both Kramer and Douglas have learned of his scheme, his only solution is death. Haney sends the two ex-presidents to their deaths, but Kramer and Douglas miraculously escape and become stranded in the middle of nowhere. All alone, save for each other’s company, the two become reluctant allies and are forced to cooperate in solving the political scandal and clearing their names, all the while running from the Secret Service.

Throughout their unexpected journey - complete with a series of interesting pit-stops, odd encounters, and suspenseful clashes with government agents - Douglas and Kramer come to realize the failures of their respective presidencies, their past neglect of their fellow Americans, and the reality behind the White House scandal.

Once Douglas and Kramer have uncovered the truth, they grapple with devising a plan to reveal this to the public. Kramer exclaims, “The people will believe us!” Douglas then questions, “Why?” To this, Kramer responds, “Because we’re presidents.” After a long silence, he concludes, “Okay, they won’t believe us. What the hell are we supposed to do now?” The answer to this question, as well as the conclusion of the movie, will remain secret.

Garner and Lemmon, in addition to supporting characters such as Bradley Whitford as Carl Witnaur, Lauren Bacall as Kramer’s wife, and John Heard as Vice President Ted Mathews, deliver outstanding performances that manage to convey even the intricate characteristics of each character’s role in politics.

“My Fellow Americans,” is a satirical political comedy, a story of loathing and hidden admiration, and a scrutiny of American politics and politicians. Despite some provocative humor and an almost-too-perfect ending, “My Fellow Americans” proves to be an enjoyable film complete with a powerful underlying message. ☺



“The Sunshine Boys”

It is a play by Neil Simon that was produced on Broadway in 1972. In 1975 Simon adapted his play to be produced as an MGM film. The movie was an instant hit and won the following awards:

- Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor (Burns, winner)
- Academy Award for Best Actor (Matthau, nominee)
- Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay (nominee)
- Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy (winner)
- Golden Globe Award for Best Actor, Motion Picture Musical or Comedy (Matthau, winner)
- Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor (Benjamin, winner)

Store	Price	Location	Selection	Overall
	\$\$\$\$\$	Five stores within five miles of CHS. Closest located at 6665 Delmar Blvd or 2021 Maplewood Commons.	Low selection	Blockbuster, ah what we all turn to in our time of movie-watching need. Unfortunately, Blockbuster is cutting us at the knees. Famuos for their painful late fees, Blockbuster tried a makeover a few years ago saying they would no longer have late fees. Sadly, they realized that this would net them little money. Now they have reneged on their promise and are charging fees to a point, and charging an exhorborant amount for renting new releases. The seletion is bad and most DVDs have to be ordered from another store. I am die-hard against Blockbuster because I have been burned one too many times, but who knows, maybe you want to pay more money than the experience is worth? Basically, woah, what a rip off!
	\$	3515 Big Bend Blvd S	Good selection	Always ready with suggestions, Family Video employees are trained to help you with your quandries. Unfortunately, their store is a little far away for regulars and the movies are a little strangely organized. I would recommend talking to the people at the front desk first to help locate. However, these problems appear small when you look at their amazing selection and prices. One dollar regular movie rentals, 2.99 new releases, and on Tuesdays one new release/oldie for a dollar, are hard to pass up. Even the late fees aren’t that bad. For you gamers out there, they have a big selection. I highly recommend this small, personal retailer.
	\$\$	9494 Manchester Rd.	Good selection	The truth about Hollywood Video is that it is located a bit far away. I’m not sure if the selection is good enough to warrant the fifteen minute commute. However, I have known diehard fans who drove all the way out to Manchester from Clayton every week to rent their movies there. Seems a bit excessive, until you meet the very committed staff. They are helpful, ready with suggestions and the truth if you are about to walk out of the store with a doozy. As well, they don’t charge exhorbitant late fees, only a pretty outrageous out-the-door fee. This video store is probably best compared to Blockbuster, sporting the same commercial accessories that decorate the store. The difference is in when you fork over the big bucks. Hollywood is an interesting choice if you are willing to drive that far.
	\$	Your computer with internet access.	Great selection	Netflix is the perfect solution for the avid foreign film, indie flick, anime feature-lovin’ guy or gal. Offering a wide, oh so wide range of films (85,000 in their database, and more upon request) this option is generally really great. Pricing starts at \$4.99 and goes to \$23.99, depending on how many DVDs you want to rent at once, so it’s pretty cheap considering the amount you can rent. Another plus is that you can keep the DVDs for as long as you want; no late fees here! However, we do live in an instant gratification world, and the DVDs do come by mail, so this process is a bit slower than the others. Also, for those unwilling or unable to navigate the internet with ease may find Netflix a tedious option.

'Blackout' bounces Britney back

[Maddie Harned]

Editor

Britney Spears' new make-or-break album, tentatively titled "Blackout" akin to her roller-coaster lifestyle, was released in October. It was considered by skeptics and fans alike to be one of the most highly anticipated CD releases of 2007.

Spears gyrated her way to the top of the pop music scene nearly a decade ago, and, through countless scandals and mega hits, has maintained her position as one of the most famous people in the world.

However, her public image has enormously suffered in recent months due to stories of whirlwind late-night partying, poor mothering skills and erratic behavior.

The New York Daily News dubiously christened Miss Spears as "Un-fitney" in regard to her parenting abilities.

People magazine has described her as a "hot mess."

Vh1's hit weekly pop culture show, "Best Week Ever," recently crowned Britney Spears with the honor of having the worst week ever.

Needless to say, things are not looking good for America's favorite pop wreck.

However, in the fog of Spears' never-ending chaos, there may just be a beam of light - her new CD is surprisingly good. "Blackout" is a searing dance album that sounds like it came straight out of an A-list Hollywood nightclub.

The thing that sets "Blackout" apart from the rather formulaic production of pop-dance music is its innate feeling of being in the now. "Blackout" sounds like pop music of the future and dance music of the present.

The CD's first track and single, "Gimme More" is opened by a rather corny spoken-word welcome to the listener, where Spears utters the now famous line, "It's Britney, bitch." But that considerably unnecessary introduction can just be chucked up to Britney's long absence from the music game.

"Gimme More" is led by a commanding base line that is skillfully confronted by various techno sound bites. The lyrics are campy, yet refreshingly unpretentious. Britney Spears is not trying to enlighten the listener with her deep insights. She isn't bothering the listener with her pillar of knowledge. All she wants is more, more, more!

What exactly does Spears want more of? The answer: it really doesn't matter. In fact very few of "Blackout's" lyrics mean much of anything.

The only song on "Blackout" that offers mildly

interesting lyrics is "Piece of Me." In the three-and-a-half minute club banger Spears takes on, well, just about everybody. "Piece of Me" tackles the never-ending negative media coverage Spears encounters, "I'm Misses lifestyles of the rich and famous / I'm Misses oh my God that Britney's shameless / I'm Misses extra, extra this just in / I'm Misses she's too big now she's too thin."

Not exactly poetry, but at least it rhymes, which makes "Piece of Me's" lyrics far more sophisticated than some other ones found in "Blackout."

Along with amusing lyrics is the most unique beat on the album. Conducted by sensual "ooh's" and "yeah's," the song is a scorching dance track. Produced by Bloodshy & Avant (whoever they are), the song definitely is memorable and hit-worthy.

Another hit-worthy tune on "Blackout" is the fast-paced techno-dance song "Radar." While the lyrics offer little change from the rest on the CD, the song attacks the listener with a heavy base line, clashed with graciously computerized, high-pitched techno sound bits.

Continuing with the nightclub-inspired sound comes possibly the best track on the album, "Break the Ice." Reminiscent of Spears' 2003 hit song "I'm a Slave 4 U," "Break the Ice" is a breathy homage to a very special someone Spears encounters on the dance floor, "I'm a hit defrost on you / let's get it blazin'."

The vocals on "Break the Ice" are the strongest on the album, varying from a low-pitched coo to a breathy chorus.

The surprisingly sweet song "Heaven on Earth" brings the high-energy mood of "Blackout" to a brief standstill. However, despite the track being placed right between two very lively songs, "Heaven on Earth" is a refreshing break.

The rather trance-like beat partnered with Spears' subtle vocals make the song sound like a techno lullaby.

Another stand-out song on "Blackout" is the campy and rather silly dance song "Hot as Ice." Spears' vocals are accompanied by several back-up singers, making the chorus a powerful techno romper.

Overall, "Blackout" is a surprisingly good and up-to-date album worth at least giving a brief listen to, even if you normally wouldn't want to risk the possibility of being seen in public purchasing a Britney Spears CD.

And while this album probably won't win a Grammy, it might just win over some skeptics of Spears. ☺



Jilly's Cupcake Bar reinvents traditional take on cupcakes

[Nava Kantor]
Co-Editor in Chief

"Peace, Love & Cupcakes!"

So reads the last line of every receipt at Jilly's Cupcake Bar. Triple exclamation points and all, the slogan captures the laid-back flavor of this recently-opened gem of a café.

Jilly's, located next to House of India at the corner of I-170 and Delmar, has made the baking of delicious and artistically presented cupcakes its mission. Ten varieties of cupcakes are staples of the menu, all of which look way too good to eat. Daily cupcake specials add variety to the menu and the bakers at Jilly's are constantly cooking up new ideas.

Walking into the café, I hardly noticed the pleasantly funky design aesthetic, for my eyes were drawn straight to the glass display case filled with colorful cupcakes.

Among the options are the S'murle (a cupcake involving marshmallow, chocolate and graham crackers), the PB and Jilly (a peanut butter and raspberry jelly concoction), the Cuppacino (melding the flavors of chocolate and coffee), the Bee Sting (lemon, lemon and more lemon), Carrot Cake (a fresh take on the classic) and Chocolate Thunder (everything chocolate that could possibly go into a cupcake). Ranging in price from \$1.95 to \$3.50, the cupcakes are as fun as their names.

Besides creations unique to Jilly's Cupcake Bar, classics like vanilla and chocolate cupcakes are offered. But even these seemingly simple flavors are guaranteed to please the taste buds. Jilly's uses a buttercream icing on its cupcakes,

the likes of which I have never tasted in my 17 years as a cupcake connoisseur. The icing is rich, but not too sweet and light as a feather. Bakers at Jilly's swirl it on perfectly in generous, though not excessive, amounts. This exceptional icing makes the cupcake experience at Jilly's extraordinary.

Among the several varieties of cupcakes I've eaten (or stolen bites from my friends) at Jilly's, my favorite is the Cuppacino. This cupcake's decadence is masked by a simple appearance relative to the other cupcakes, but don't let its exterior fool you. The Cuppacino's base is a chocolate cake, and it is topped with the special buttercream icing, in this case flavored with mocha. A chocolate coffee bean is perched on the top. But digging into this cupcake reveals a surprise - a rich center of mocha-flavored ganache. Espresso syrup and white chocolate mousse also play a part in the Cuppacino. If you have even the slightest fondness for mocha, this cupcake is definitely for you.

A friend of mine wanted to order a Chocolate Thunder on our visit, but those were sold out by the time we arrived. However, the S'murle successfully satisfied her cupcake cravings. Chocolate cake,

marshmallow meringue, chocolate ganache and praline pecans are topped with a chocolate-dipped graham cracker garnish in this creation.

Although I'm not a big fan of lemon desserts, I enjoyed a bite of the Bee Sting, which tops vanilla cake with honey custard, lemon syrup, lemon frosting, toasted almonds and white chocolate bark made with pieces of lemon candies. Lemon lovers will rejoice with every bite.

If you'd like a meal to accompany your cupcakes, Jilly's has plenty of gourmet options, costing anywhere from \$2.50 to \$8.50.

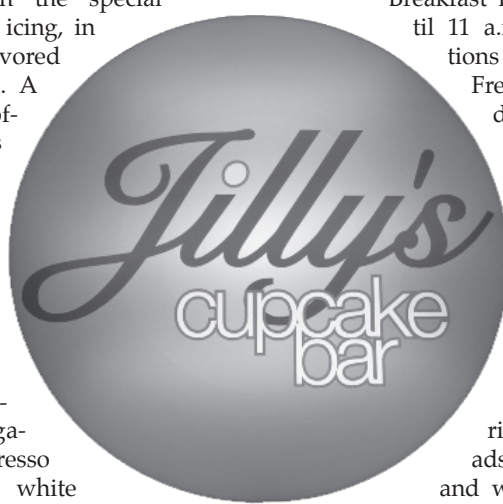
Breakfast is served until 11 a.m., with options like Challah

French toast and daily stratas and soufflés.

For lunch, Jilly's offers dips and other appetizers, fresh daily soups and several varieties of salads, sandwiches and wraps. I tried

the three cheese and vegetable quesadilla. Roasted mushrooms, artichokes, tomatoes and other veggies combined with the crispy tortilla and accompanying salsa and sour cream. The quesadilla was the perfect precursor to my cupcake.

Try Jilly's for a quick off-campus lunch or anytime you're struck by a crucial cupcake craving. ☺



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Lester's offers fun for the family



Abbie Minton

Lester's Bar and Grill in Ladue combines a family-oriented sit-down restaurant with a TV-filled sports bar, attracting patrons of all ages.

[Maddy McMahon]
Staff Reporter

Lester's Bar and Grill, located at 9906 Clayton Road, is clean, carefully planned and well-lit. In other words, it is a very nice but somewhat unrealistic sports bar. The smoke, the unbearable noise, and the walls cluttered with fading autographs are missing, but there is still a lot of spirit.

We arrived on a Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m., and were told there was a 30-40 minute wait. Of course, we did arrive in the third quarter of the New England Patriots vs. Indianapolis Colts game. And although I am not crazy about football, the largely pro-Colt fanaticism caught hold of me.

In a way, Lester's is an oxymoron: a sports bar in Ladue. It looks a lot like a nice, family-oriented restaurant: little girls wearing big white bows as their brothers watch the food being prepared in the glittering, stainless-steel kitchen, which is proudly visible behind a large window. Old men with sports jackets and embroidered ties chat with their wives. All of this adds a distinct Ladue character to the sports theme of the restaurant. However, when a touchdown was scored, Lester's exploded with sound and excitement. Then I recalled that next to the restaurant part, a bar actually

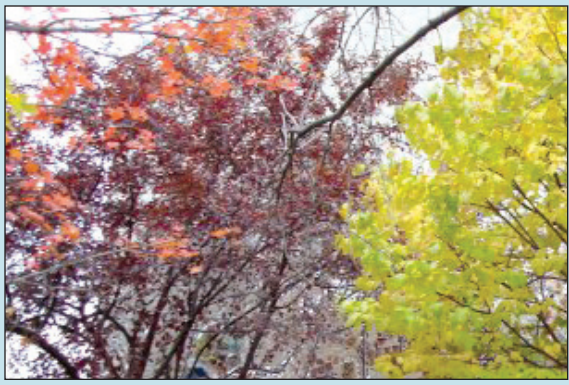
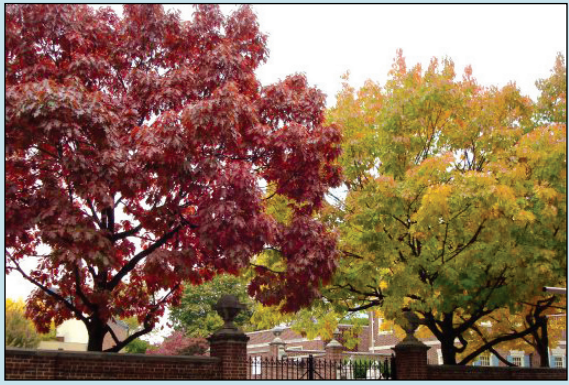
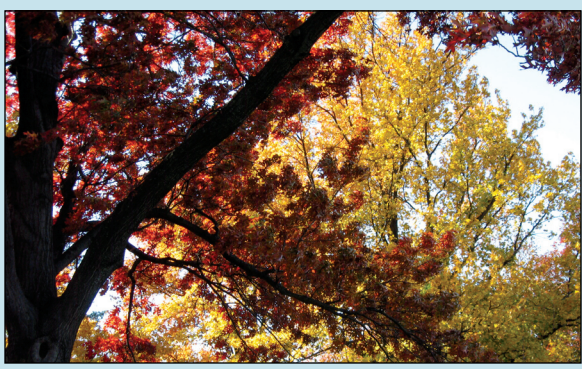
does exist, with 26 TVs and a more involved, twenty-something crowd.

The service was superb once we finally were seated—our waiter was friendly, fast, and constantly aware of any refilling-needs we had. He insisted on a new bun for the smoked turkey sandwich when it slid onto the table, despite our assurances that we really did not need a new one. His adherence to the Lester's standards was admirable, and the food he served was more than just barbecued bar food.

The menu, which offers sliced beef, pulled pork or sliced turkey with a choice of spicy or sweet sauces, has a barbecue focus. Both sauces have a delicious tangy smoke flavor. They also serve pastrami, corned beef sandwiches and rib sides amidst the back drop of the traditional bar fare. However, beyond what is expected from a sports bar and grill, Lester's stands apart in its appetizer and side dish menu.

For one thing, it has sweet potato fries. At first, I was dubious. After the first bite, I was won over. Normal fries pale in comparison, quite literally.

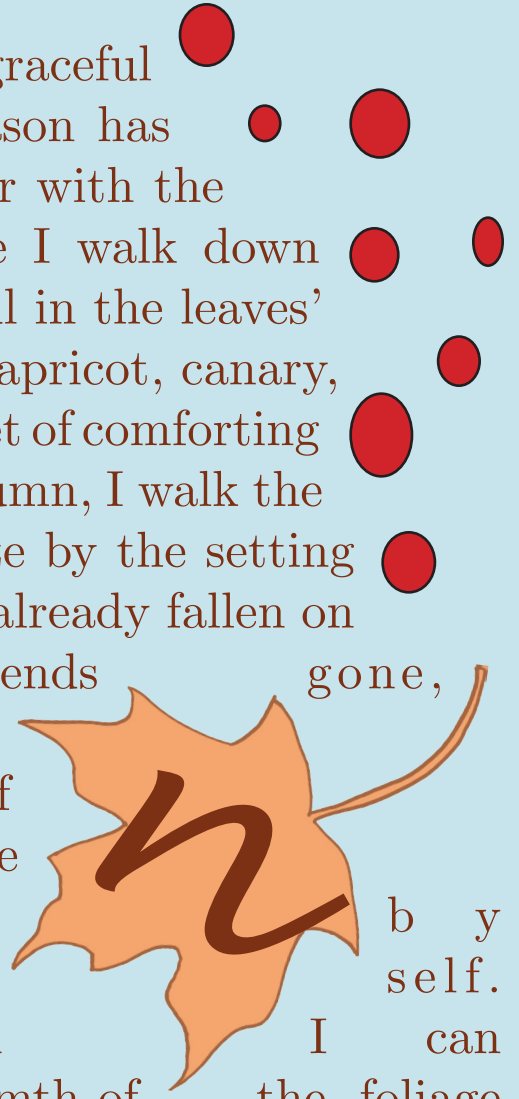
However, if orange fries don't sound appetizing, then appetizers like the BBQ sliders and toasted ravioli may have more appeal. The menu has a wide variety of items, from pizza to burgers to white bean turkey chili. All of these range from about \$7 to \$14 each. ☺



all photos by Kelly Moffitt

Nostalgic for Autumn

Autumnal, the very essence of the word is all at once graceful and lithe. However, my fascination with the fall season has nothing to do with the beauty of its name, but rather with the wonderful nostalgia that washes over me every time I walk down leaf-enshrouded sidewalks. There's something beautiful in the leaves' last burst of brilliance before their death. Aubergine, apricot, canary, scarlet... the colors swim before my eyes, a woven blanket of comforting imagery as the winter winds begin to set in. In the autumn, I walk the streets at twilight, watching as the trees are set ablaze by the setting sun, my boots scraping through the remains of leaves already fallen on the ground, moist and cold. I think of times past, friends gone, loves lost. My regrets don't confront me in the autumn: I am allowed the simple pleasure of a pensive state of mind. Assisted by a mug of steaming coffee, I savor the beautiful reminiscence that is so synonymous with walks oneself. Fall is the season of comforts and assurance in every other season I wait, longing for this time when I can turn my face to the sun, basking in the glow and warmth of the foliage around me, being reminded of who I am and what I stand for as the brisk autumn air brushes my hair across my forehead. Every moment in the fall is like a sweet caress, a touch of something from my childhood... the affirmation, in my soul, that I am vibrantly alive.



by Kelly Moffitt

"For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad."
-Edwin Way Teale

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."
-Stanley Horowitz

